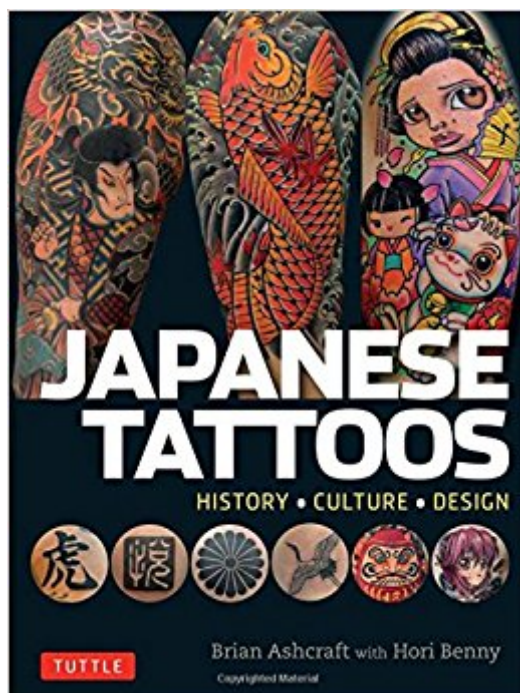


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# Japanese Tattoos: History \* Culture \* Design



## Synopsis

Thinking of getting a Japanese-style tattoo? Want to avoid a permanent mistake? *Japanese Tattoos* is an insider's look at the world of Japanese irezumi (tattoos). *Japanese Tattoos* explains the imagery featured in Japanese tattoos so that readers can avoid getting ink they don't understand or, worse, that they'll regret. This photo-heavy book will also trace the history of Japanese tattooing, putting the iconography and kanji symbols in their proper context so readers will be better informed as to what they mean and have a deeper understanding of irezumi. Tattoos featured will range from traditional tebori (hand-poked) and kanji tattoos to anime-inspired and modern works as well as everything in between. For the first time, Japanese tattooing will be put together in a visually attractive, informative, and authoritative way. Along with the 350+ photos of tattoos, *Japanese Tattoos* will also feature interviews with Japanese tattoo artists on a variety of topics. What's more, there will be interviews with clients, who are typically overlooked in similar books, allowing them to discuss what their Japanese tattoos mean to them. Those who read this informative tattoo guide will be more knowledgeable about Japanese tattoos should they want to get inked or if they are simply interested in Japanese art and culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Japanese Tattoos* not only peers deep into the nuances of Japan's tattooing history, but also takes a look at its current fusion with pop culture and shows us where it's heading." Shinji Watanabe, editor-in-chief, *Tattoo Tribal* magazine can think of no better guide to take me through

another element of Japanese art with far more ancient roots: tattooing. This book brings a respect and reverence that the sacred and timeless art of ink deserves." *—Xeni Jardin, Boing Boing* Ultimately, Japanese Tattoos brims with the authors' respect and love for the craft, occupying a curious space somewhere between field guide and coffee table book." *—The Japan Times* As informative as it is beautiful, Japanese Tattoos takes you from the very beginnings of what was until recently an underground and taboo art form, to the modern practitioners who have carried on a long tradition of storytelling and beauty." *—Scotti Hill, guitarist, Skid Row* Japanese Tattoos is as much a book about the art form as it is about Japanese culture. As it traces the earliest history of getting inked in the country and moves into modern times, it reveals the cultural and spiritual meaning of popular tattoo motifs, explores the traditional and modern techniques that Japanese tattoo artists have used over the centuries, and reveals the ways in which East and West are influencing one another when it comes to contemporary tattoo culture." *—Tokyo Weekender* A rare insight into the world of tattoos in Japan. This book is filled with visuals of this breathtaking form of art—some of which you would only be able to see if you were brave enough to ask the person to strip." *—Danny Choo, founder, Culture Japan and Smart Doll* This book gives you great insight into the beauty, mystery, and tradition of the Japanese tattoo. It's a delight to read and a worthy addition for the collection of any Japanophile." *—Jake Adelstein, Tokyo Vice* The bottom-line coolness of Japanese Tattoos is the world it opens up. This is imagery rarely seen by anyone, Japanese or foreigner." *—Tofugu*

Brian Ashcraft is a senior contributing editor for the video-game site Kotaku. Ashcraft was previously a contributing editor at Wired magazine; his work has also appeared in Popular Science, the Guardian, the Japan Times, and the design journal Metropolis, as well as numerous other publications worldwide. He is the author of *Arcade Mania!* and *Japanese Schoolgirl Confidential*. Originally from Texas, he has called Osaka home for well over a decade. Horii Benny was born in Minneapolis and moved to Japan in 2002. Two years later he settled in Osaka and began a tattoo apprenticeship at Chopstick Tattoo. In 2014 he formed his own studio, Invasion Club, near Osaka's otaku cultural center in Nipponbashi. He does custom work in a variety of genres.

The book goes in depth on both symbolic and technical aspects of Irezumi (Japanese Tattoos), and it presents a fascinating yet unbiased look at art, language, nature, religion, history, and contemporary pop-culture of Japan. It sheds light to a sometimes misunderstood and mistreated subculture of the island nation. Great read for those who enjoy body art, as well as anyone

interested to learn more about Japan and its sub-cultures.

A thorough and interesting read on Japanese tattoo art. The photos are vivid and numerous - showing the variety and depth of the different designs, as well as discussions on their symbolism. There are a number of fascinating tidbits (e.g., the guy who collected full bodysuit tattoos of deceased people) and interviews with masters of the art. Definitely well worth a read, even if you're not that into tattoos!

Japanese Tattoos: History Culture Design is a well round book that covers the History and current evolution of this style of tattooing. The author provides brief descriptions of the traditionals, equipment, and meanings behind much of the most common pieces in the style. Several artists are given a spotlight as well.

Amazing book! Have you interest in Japanese culture? Perhaps tattoos period...this book is a good interesting read if you have any interest in Japanese culture and/or tattoos...however it is also just a fantastic read....highly recommend.

This is a great book for people that are new to Japanese tattoo or already have a lot of knowledge about the style and it's history. Well laid-out and informative. I enjoyed it so much that I used it for reference to set up a tattoo appointment for my next trip to Japan :) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Awesome book super informative with great pics of old school tattooing and modern day. If your just getting into Japanese traditional this is a awesome book!

Bought it as a gift for a tattoo artist friend who is into Japanese style. He really likes the illustrations and history. Would recommend this as a gift!

This is a beautiful book with everything you've ever wanted to know about Japanese Tattoos. Highly recommended for the tattoo enthusiast or Japanophile.

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