



Wabi-Sabi: Further Thoughts

Leonard Koren

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Twenty-plus years after the initial publication of *Wabi-Sabi: for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers*, Leonard Koren is back with further insights into this seminal aesthetic paradigm. An important book for art and design theorists, and other thoughtful creators.

Wabi-Sabi: Further Thoughts Details

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GONZA says

Even better than the first one.

Ryan says

Worthwhile complement to the original. I appreciated the additional context in the form of history and bibliography, and thoughts on modern implications; ruminating on the co-opting of the concept, and the problem of its very concept-ness.

The brief ending on co-existence with "the digital world" was a concise and lucid, yet somehow superficial rejection. I suspect the perceived divide between natural/physical and virtual/symbolic may be a worthy meditation for a third book that explores the metaphysical boundaries of each notion, not equating them, but still connecting them within a larger whole.

Andy Stone says

What a perfect read. I'm not how many of you read the first Wabi-Sabi book (likely after Dorsey's interview about 6-7 years ago), but it was a book that stuck with me. Getting to revisit many of those ideas years later with Further Thoughts has been wonderful and helped solidify many of the positions set up in the first book.

In many ways, Wabi-Sabi helps to prove that we exist and that we interact with the living world around us. Products aren't built to the 3D-model specs perfectly, and they later show off human wear or time. Winkles, scratches, and smoothed-points are objects way of interacting with the world around them. It could be a way of thinking about why we loved faded books, records with old sleeves or a coffee mug that is slightly cracked after years of use. Objects become a method for the stories we love to tell.

Many objects are made to look vintage and of a time that we would want to remember. Since 2008 (the last financial crisis), products have been designed to look worn, well-loved or brimming with Americana. Torn jeans from the store aren't as good as our favorite shirt from college, but it's a good simulacrum.

The idea of Wabi-Sabi is a direct counter to modernism in that there isn't one correct answer for everyone or every situation—every interaction has the need for something unique.

Alex Pler says

"Wabi-sabi refleja el mundo en el que hemos nacido, las condiciones a las que han estado sujetos históricamente el cuerpo y la mente del ser humano. El ámbito digital es un submundo radicalmente truncado, manipulado, el producto de mentes humanas (imperfectas). ¿Cuáles son los efectos acumulativos

de vivir en un mundo como este?"

Kent Winward says

Sort of a hipster creation of a Japanese aesthetic, but still intriguing. It does capture the slant of Japanese thought thus allowing for a different take on the world and the objects we interact with.

Cody says

A satisfying follow-up to Koren's initial text on wabi-sabi, albeit a bit more of a hodgepodge this time around. I would've loved more on wabi-sabi in the digital age, as he makes some stark and interesting claims that, in my opinion, would benefit from a deeper discussion.

Andrew says

also an amazing book. the first one is better, but this one is fucking amazing

Chris Beiser says

mediocre, masturbatory, doctrinaire

Catherine says

Beautiful thoughts on embracing simplicity and imperfection as an aesthetic and way of life. With a dash of history on where wabi-sabi came from. I read this in half an hour.

Michele says

It reminds us all that we are all wabi sabi, imperfect, yet beautiful in this journey of life. A great book to re-read and ponder over.

Halim says

Amazing continuation and further detailing of the first wabi sabi book

Karen Jáuregui says

A great conceptual and philosophical book, which contains basic information about Wabi-Sabi as an aesthetic system. I recommend this book if you want to have general knowledge but first you should have read "For artists, designers, poets and philosophers".

I loved that the form and design of the book is related with Wabi-Sabi, also all the pictures that appears in it.

Ryryan Daniel says

Doesn't say anything the first book didn't, but a good reminder of how to find beauty in the ordinary.

Thomas says

A neat little gem. What is Wabi-Sabi? What is not? In clear and unobtrusive words Leonard Koren sets out the context of a deeply Japanese concept, that finds beauty and pleasure in the subtle imperfections of materiality.

Simon Farsi says

Applicable comments on irregularity, juxtaposition and subjectivity in aesthetics. Tiresomely self-righteous.
