Anthropology of Art

... 

A Cultural Understanding of Female Japanese Artists of the Edo Period
Thesis

I believe that because of the Tokugawa Shogunate coming into power, society's ideas of what gender roles should be shifted, which then in turn kept them from having their artwork published the same as men despite their work previously being published throughout Japan's history, and through Japan's future.
History of Japan

- Jomon and Japanese Ancient History - 20,000 BCE ~ 700 CE
- Nara and Heian Period - 710 CE ~ 1185 CE
- Rise of Samurai and the Warring States
- Unification under the Tokugawa Rule
History of Women

- Shinto Deities: Amaterasu, Toyotama-Hime
- Empresses:
  - Queen Himiko, Empress Komyo, Empress Shoshi
- Female Samurai: Onna-bugeisha
- Writers, Painters, Calligraphers
  1. Lady Murasaki
  2. Lady Tosa
  3. Sei Shonagon
  4. Lady Kii
The Edo Period (1603-1868)

- Tokugawa Shogunate
- Isolation and sealed borders
- Fear of outsiders causing change
Government and Religion

- Neo-Confucianism
- Buddhism
- Outlaw of Christianity
- Samurai power shift
Gender Roles and Society

Class system:

1. Samurai
2. Farmers
3. Artisans
4. Merchants

How women were affected:

1. No power
2. Demure, subordinate
3. Unequal Education
Research Methods

- Interviews
- Primary and Secondary Research
  - Data Gathering
  - Articles and Books
Interviews

Reached out to several historians

Unable to contact them

Interviews Unsuccessful - no data gathered
Articles/Books

9 books, 2 Articles, 1 Online Resource

“Japanese Women Artists: 1600-1900”

Japanese Culture- in depth about Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism

Japanese History- stories and accounts of women affect

-Take - Takejiro
Primary Research

Japanese Museums

Tokyo National Museum

Kyoto National Museum
Museum Data: Tokyo National Museum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ceramics</th>
<th>Calligraphy</th>
<th>Paintings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men-</td>
<td>Men- 5</td>
<td>Men- 29</td>
<td>Men- 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women-</td>
<td>Women- 0</td>
<td>Women- 1</td>
<td>Women- 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ryonen Genso 1646-1711

Born to wealthy family

Became Zen Nun

Known for Calligraphy, Paintings, Poetry
Kiyohara Yukinobu  1643-1682

Rare, well known women of the time

Grandniece of Kano Tan’yu

Studied at the Kano School

Proficient in hanging scrolls, screens, booklets
Yamazaki Ryu-jo 1716-1735 (Active Years)

Daughter of shogunal vassal

Painting and producing Ukiyo-e as a child

Practiced *waka* and included it in paintings
Discussion

Supporting Evidence of Thesis

Type-1 Spencerian Selection

Fear of outside pressures forced internal change.

Changes affected women artists.
Conclusion

Because Tokugawa rulers closed the borders and selected Neo-Confucianism as their choice of social rule many women artists were lost to history for a long time.