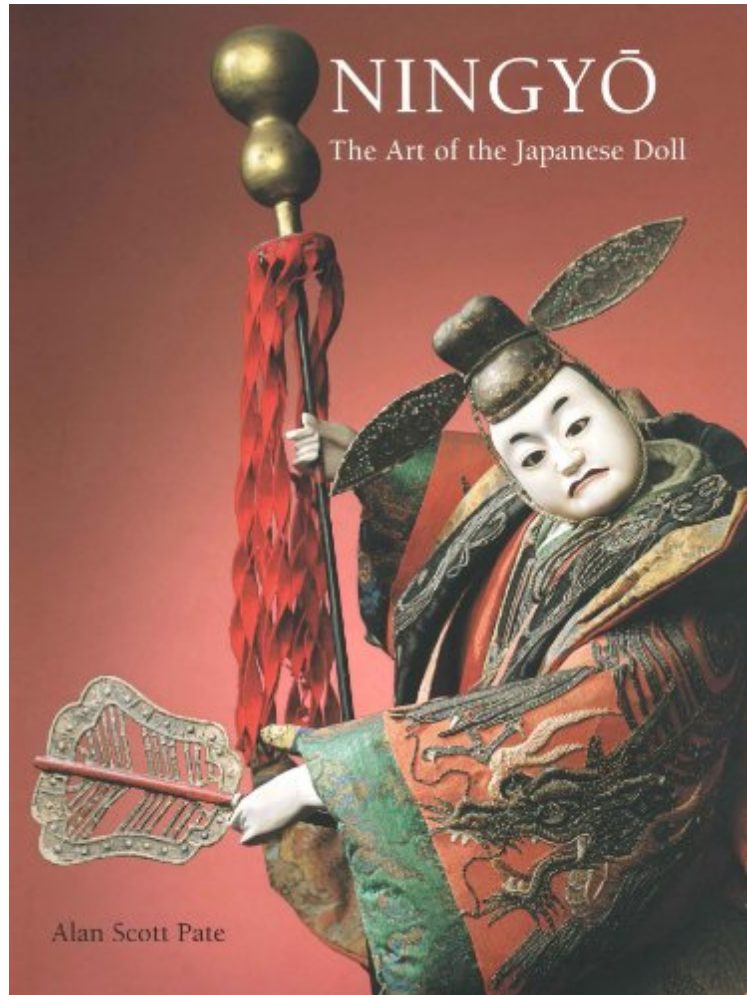


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## Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll

*Alan Scott Pate*

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**Alan Scott Pate : Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WARRIORS, ACTORS, AND DEMONSBy Jack KeelyAlan Scott Pate's impressive book is a detailed exploration of ningyo, an enthralling array of dolls from Japan's Edo period (1615–1868). The dolls are creations of wood, silk, and gofun (a paste of crushed oyster shells which creates their porcelain white faces). The term "doll" is somewhat misleading as these are not playthings. The meticulously detailed figures were intended to commemorate, entertain, and educate. Some were used in the theater and others by medical practitioners. The figures range from a fierce warrior battling a tiger to an undersea princess riding a turtle, and from exotically costumed actors to wild-eyed demons. Many of the figures are shown alongside historic woodblock prints featuring the same character. Alan Scott Pate details the symbolism of the costumes, hairstyles, props, and gestures of the dolls. The bits of history and legend that illuminate the story of each

doll are told in rich detail. The serious student of Japanese culture will find this book to be a valuable resource. Other readers will be captivated by the color photographs and enjoy an intriguing glimpse into a remarkable culture. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stunning! By Francisca Beautiful in every way! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Karen Rae Another great reference book for collectors

**Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll** features over 250 unique photographs as well as extensive commentary and background history. Japanese dolls (ningyo) have played an important role in Japanese art and culture since its earliest stages of development, as talismanic figures, centerpieces, in elaborate festivals, medical study tools, theater distractions, decorative objects, and avidly collected art forms, as well as childhood playthings. **Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll** is the most comprehensive book on antique Japanese dolls and figurines published in English. The book focuses on the many types of Japanese dolls: gosho: palace dollshina: Girl's Day dollsmusha: warrior dolls for the Boy's Day Festivalisho: fashion dollsThe principle forms of the dolls and their history, stylistic development, cultural context, and economic imperatives are discussed against the backdrop of Edo-period society and popular culture. Beautifully detailed color photographs of ningyo drawn from private collections, many of which are published here for the first time, as well as images of related materials selected from celebrated museums and temple collections, such as folding screens, woodblock prints, sculpture, painting ceramics, and textiles, help place the dolls in context. **Ningyo: The Art of the Japanese Doll** is a fascinating book for anyone interested in Asian doll art and doll collecting.

"For those who love knowing everything they can about the history of dolls or who have an interest specifically in the history of Japanese dolls, this is a must read. Since reading, I definitely would like to see some of these dolls in person one day. It'Ningyo explores everything from the nature of materials used to create the dolls, to what they teach us about people from that period, to their spiritual purpose. This beautiful book is a must-have for any fan of Japanese culture. mdash;Sophie's"The author's knowledge is undeniable; his description for each doll featured is in?depth. He meticulously examines their history and, in many cases, their craftsmanship. It's a work of art in its own right and is a truly worthy book that belongs inAbout the AuthorAlan Pate has been appointed guest curator for an exhibition on Japanese dolls at the Mingei International Museum.