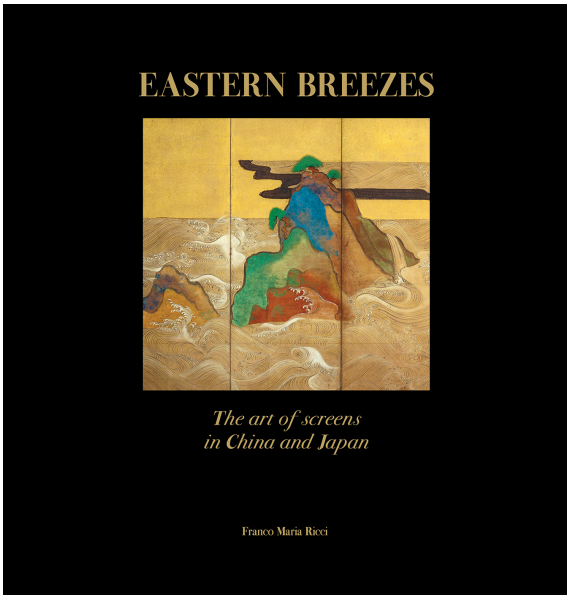
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# Eastern Breezes

## The Art of Screens in China and Japan

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- Large selection of unseen artworks from private collections
- Many interesting details of the screens
- Special binding - silk cover, impressions in gold

This book aims to explore the complex relationship between East and West through an analysis of the artistic and cultural development of a peculiar object, the screen.

Arriving in Japan from China in the seventh century and soon becoming representative of Japanese aesthetic taste, screens not only fulfilled architectural and decorative functions but also constituted one of the most valued artistic genres, equivalent to painting within European Renaissance culture. Portuguese travelers and missionaries who landed in the Japanese archipelago in the mid-16th century did not fully perceive their significance, yet they were the first to make them known in the West.

The contact with the “barbarians of the south” induced Japanese artists to make such modifications to their creations as to attract the interest of the newcomers, an intent that resulted in the so-called “Namban Art.” With Japan’s closure to religious proselytizing and mercantile trade with European countries, that is, with the end of the “Christian Century,” screens returned to the traditional canon, sticking to it until the threshold of World War II.

**Giorgio Antei** is an Italian scholar and curator whose research focuses on Latin American history and art, he is the author of 15 books concerning 19th century European explorers and voyagers-painters of the Americas, and art history, among others subjects. He has curated documentary and art exhibitions in Italy, and South America. **Hwee Lie Bléhaut** is an independent researcher in Asian art. She holds a Master’s in Sinology from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. She worked for several years in the Chinese Department at Sotheby’s London and has written extensively about Chinese ceramics and works of art.





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