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Jozan Hirota

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Jozan Hirota : Bonkei: Tray Landscapes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bonkei: Tray Landscapes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. exquisiteBy DavidThis guy must have pictures of over 30 such tray landscapes. This is similar to Chinese Penjing, though they may use artificial vegetation. These are basically dioramas of nature. As with other Japanese art forms, they took something from overseas, in this case China, and gave it a uniquely Japanese twist, which if anything adds to the art form. Making waves with dribbled white sand over blue sand, set in glue- I never would have thought of that. Dioramas are popular enough, in the USA, look at all the people doing dioramas of military equipment. Many museums have dioramas. They typically show the works of man, though. These dioramas have a deeper energy, of living landscapes. The author had some of his landscapes in restaurants, as decoration. They are true art forms. Very beautiful, exquisitely so.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. gorgeousBy miraclebabyThis is one fantastic book- and a how-to at the same time. This is Chinese Landscape paintings in 3D. Some of the techniques take a long time- Orientals are very patient- a Westerner might find a quicker way. Many pictures of completed products, and lots of how to. One of the best how to books I've ever seen. So very beautiful.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. magnificentBy DavidHow odd that I would be the first reviewer... this is a Japanese diorama art form, but of nature, primarily, like you see in Chinese landscape paintings. Think of the paintings of John Constable- nature in its glory and power, with the works of man small on a landscape. This guy must have 30 of these dioramas shown here. It takes patience to make any kind of diorama, and this

fascinating form does also. He makes waves, for example, by dribbling white sand from his fingers, over blue sand, set I think in layers of clear glue, for some very convincing whitecaps. In Chinese Penjing, which is the rough equivalent, the bridges, pavilions, etc. are considered jewels- they "set" the scale, so you know what the scale is, instead of having to guess- is this a small form, large one, etc. This is a delightful hobby. I use epoxy on white nylon string, for waterfalls, myself. I also sometimes work in tumbled semiprecious gems- amethyst, sunstone- into a streambed, for a sort of fantasy environment, or perhaps have an amethyst crystal as an outcropping. Jozan is a true master of this art form. You can sometimes find books on this in Chinatown bookstores, all in Chinese, but if well illustrated it doesn't matter. This is a book I bought in 1982, new, and still treasure and enjoy. I have given it to family who enjoy Oriental art, and they loved it. Just exquisite. This book is of course in English, well done.

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