. Record Nr. Autore	UNINA9910452430003321 Sorensen Joseph T
Titolo	Optical allusions [[electronic resource]] : screens, paintings, and poetry in classical Japan (ca. 800-1200) / / by Joseph T. Sorensen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2012
ISBN	1-280-99575-0 9786613767363 90-04-23151-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Collana	Brill's Japanese studies library, , 0925-6512 ; ; 40
Disciplina	895.6/1009
Soggetti	Japanese poetry - Heian period, 794-1185 - History and criticism Literature in art Screen painting, Japanese - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material Introduction: Thinking with Pictures 1. Screens and Poems, Contexts and Images 2. The Efflorescence of Screen Poetry 3. The Dai Is Cast 4. Politics and Precedence Conclusion: Poetic Conception, Poetic Vision Appendix A: Screen Poems Predating Kokinsh (905) Appendix B: Translation from Tales of Times Now Past Bibliography Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In Optical Allusions: Screens, Paintings, and Poetry in Classical Japan (ca. 800-1200), Joseph T. Sorensen illustrates how, on both the theoretical and the practical level, painted screens and other visual art objects helped define some of the essential characteristics of Japanese court poetry. In his examination of the important genre later termed screen poetry, Sorensen employs ekphrasis (the literary description of a visual art object) as a framework to analyze poems composed on or for painted screens. He provides close readings of poems and their social, political, and cultural contexts to argue the importance of the visual arts in the formation of Japanese poetics and poetic conventions.

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