Zen Buddhism Thoughts and their Reflection in Japanese Art

This thesis covers the development of Chan and Zen Buddhism thoughts, their effect on Japanese culture and their reflection in specific art forms. In the first part, it summarizes the arriving and settling of Zen in Japan as a follow-up to Chan development in China and as a reaction to the preceding Buddhist schools in Japan. In the second part it deduces a set of criteria for defining „Zen Arts“ from the general trends in taste at that time. And in the third part, it compares the differences in architecture, landscape design and painting before and after the influence of Zen. It follows the changes in development of specific components and techniques of these art forms and on this basis it determines what are the key Zen Buddhism thoughts that are expressed by that and how.