This volume celebrates a number of artistic endeavours: music, painting, the skill of making in general, and Japanese kimono design and related crafts. The book is designed not only to accompany the exhibition *Shibusa – Extracting Beauty* by Pip Dickens (visual artist) and Monty Adkins (composer) but also to document the creative journey from its inception to the making of the final works. As such, the book is a rich repository of ideas and discusses a wide range of topics both directly related and occasionally tangential to the project – though all the ideas, concepts and research presented in the book fed into the final exhibition. The book thus provides a unique glimpse into the creative process of the artist and musician, and also into how their accumulated collaborative ideas and investigation into Japanese aesthetics and katagami stencils resulted in the works presented in the final exhibition.

The book is split into three parts. The first part, by Monty Adkins, discusses the relationship between painting and music from both historical and contemporary angles and uses this as a foundation to outline his own creative practice. The second part comprises four chapters by Pip Dickens investigating notions of artistic practice – methodology, pattern, colour and rhythm, and the materials used in the making of her paintings. The third part of the book contains three contextual chapters, by Roy Exley, Pip Dickens and Makoto Mori. The first of these, by Roy Exley, provides an analysis and critique of collaborative practice in the arts. The remaining chapters will be of special interest to those wishing to understand more about historical and contemporary Japanese textile design.