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Outline

1. Introduction
   1. Introduce the tale of Musashino
   2. Briefly summarize the birth of landscape ideas.
   3. Actually being in a place and observing
   4. Imperfect description of nature
   5. People as scenery
   6. Musashino’s step away from idealistic mental pictures of nature marks it as the first major Japanese work to portray one of Karatani’s landscapes.
2. First body paragraph: Explain the previous existence of “landscape”
   1. People did not depict a natural scene, they portrayed what it “should look like”
   2. Used the mind’s eye to create what you wanted to be there rather than the realistic.
      1. In *sansuiga* the painter is not looking at an object but envisioning the transcendental. Karatani 21
   3. “the transcendental vision of space had to be overturned before painters could see existing pine groves as their subjects.” Karatani 27
   4. Everything was perfect.
3. Kunikida actually goes out into the nature and sits in the forest alone.
   1. “I sat in the heart of the trees, looking around me, straining my ears, and silently contemplating” Kunikida 99
   2. He walks very often in the woods, actually absorbing the real world around him rather than conjuring up his mental image of the world.
   3. “the link between landscape and an introverted solitary situation” Karatani 25
   4. This led Kunikida to start to break away from the classical views of forests and the plains
      1. According to long tradition, Musashino in ancient times was incomparably beautiful on account of the endless vistas of miscanthus reeds all over the plain, but nowadays it is covered with woods. Kunikida 101
      2. “when a Japanese writer wrote of woods, he was thinking principally of pines so that the very idea of listening to the early autumn rains in an oak forest does not figure at all in our literature, not even in poetry” Kunikida 101
   5. These observations could only be gained by actually travelling through and absorbing the woods.
4. Kunikida’s description is imperfect, even melancholy at times.
   1. He does not provide a perfect pristine forest.
   2. It rains, snows, and has cloud and bitter cold.
   3. An actual objective description of his surroundings.
   4. “ The trees are green as they are in summer, but the skies are completely different, for the driving south wind brings low cloud and frequent rains” kunikida 98
   5. BEST QUOTE “Morning; the sky was cloudy and the wind died away. There was a cold mist and a chilly dew. Everywhere I could hear the chirruping of insects and it was almost as if the very heart of heaven and earth had woken from a dream” Kunikida 99
   6. “the whole scene begins to take on the look of the withering decay of winter” kunikida 99.
   7. “By contrast, the Musashino rains are somehow more human and have a kind of whispering charm.” Kunikida 103
5. His journeys through the countryside and people as landscapes and characters.
   1. A person can be a landscape as well. Unforgettable people that are “standing in the midst of scenes in which I discovered them” Karatani quoting Kunikida’s novel.
   2. These people have no name or purpose or nobility, they just exist and are a part of the scenery, connected to the setting.
   3. “If you need to find some particular path for special reason, ask the way of a laborer working in the fields.” Kunkida 107
   4. These people exist, meshing and melding with the landscape of musashino.
   5. You wander around till you come upon them, “When you go on your way, you will almost certainly find that the path forks again, but always follow the way you have been directed, no matter how insignificant or odd it looks, and you will soon reach the garden of some farmer.” Kunikida 107.
6. Conclude or some shit