



## Shosa

### Meditation in Japanese Handwork

Ringo Gomez-Jorge  
Photographs by Rob Walbers

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- Twelve beautiful, mindfully created in-depth portraits of Japanese makers in words and photos, including information about different regions to visit in Japan

The Japanese concept *Shosa* is hard to translate: it's about the beauty that lies in the repetition of actions and movements, striving for perfection and efficiency in their execution. You can find it in the rituals of a Japanese tea ceremony, but also in the repetition of cleaning actions (like in the movie *Perfect Days*) or in the skillful actions of craftsmen and women.

This book portrays 12 Japanese makers from different regions. From a bamboo weaver to a tatami mats maker, from a ceramist to a cook who specializes in puddings. The writer and photographer went to visit these makers in their studios and created profound portraits in words and images. Because the craftsmen and women often rely on locally sourced materials, the stories in this book also cover the surroundings. The aim isn't to provide tourist guide-like information, but to share a taste of various regions in Japan, so this book can also serve as a source of inspiration when you're planning a trip to the Land of the Rising Sun.

**Ringo Gomez-Jorge** is a Belgium-based freelance journalist who specializes in face-to-face, in-depth interviews with designers, makers and artists. He writes for Flemish quality newspapers like *De Standaard* and *De Morgen* and has a weak spot for Japan, where he tries to spend as much time as possible. **Rob Walbers** is a Tokyo-based freelance photographer. His work ranges from music photography (including portraits of Madonna, The Rolling Stones, Lady Gaga, Morrissey and Radiohead) to the fields of fashion and lifestyle. Next to his commercial work, he focuses on personal projects, which have resulted in numerous publications and exhibitions and an array of awards.