



PLAY JOINERY

Wabi-sabi, a Japanese aesthetic philosophy, in essence recognizing the beauty in imperfection. “Nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect” is the saying. Thus sooner we recognize this, thus sooner we can find rest from the strive of achieving perfection.

A praxis underlying the wabi-sabi aesthetic is *kintsugi*. That means golden joinery. Traditionally a technique of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage, with lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. Highlighting the former trauma instead of trying to hide it. Thus giving the object a unique character and heightening its status by the care it received.

Could we extend this philosophy to more of our everyday objects?
Honouring them by engaging our creative resources in repairing them.
As an alternative to the unbearable cycle of waste and consumption?

Our carbon footprint varies depending on a product’s materiality, production method and transport line. But even under the best conditions, all industrial products will have an environmental cost. The more we incorporate the *kintsugi* approach in our daily lives, the more it becomes a norm that we take care of our possessions. By putting a personal touch, and thus also creating a break in the alienation we experience from our mass-produced goods.

Not everybody has the tools or the know-how of doing basic repairs. That’s why I think Teknisk Museum is a perfect avenue to provide such a service. As a counterpoint to the overwhelming multitude of commercial powers that want us to throw out what we already possess and buy new.

This would be a workshop where people would meet. Share and be inspired to new creative solutions for repairs, where there is little prestige in how the end result is. As such by definition, maybe not doing *kintsugi* per se. But something we could rather call *asobitsugi*. That roughly translates to “play joinery”

As material beings, we are materialist dependent. But as we have realized there is a finite quantity to raw materials, and an environmental cost in extracting them. Let’s put more respect to what we already possess.