Between 2001 and 2007 Mauro Arrighi was a lecturer of digital art and electronic art at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice in Italy. He has been featured, among other venues, at the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz and at the International Biennales of Art and Architecture of Venice. Arrighi currently lives in Japan, where he is pursuing his academic and artistic career as a new media artist, lecturer, and independent curator. For a full account of his artistic productions and academic research, please visit his personal website at www.dreamingwww.com.

This essay aims to test the hypothesis that a form of belief can influence the avant-garde, thereby proving that religion is embedded in technology, and ultimately describing how tradition and innovation are merging in contemporary Japan. There is a relationship between Shinto, the indigenous spirituality of the Japanese people, and Japanese contemporary art. This paper is alive with sympathetic insight into electronic art, with particular emphasis on hybrid art and device art made in Japan. From The Gutai Group’s performances to the latest experiences in interactive art, this book sheds light on the origins of present-day aesthetic offshoots in Japan.