EILEEN GRAY
A CHILD OF JAPONISM?

My interest is in Gray’s lacquer work and
the influences on that work
in the context of 19th century fashion of Japonisme.
Gray (1878-1976) had an appreciation of the
Japanese characteristics of lacquer —
perhaps absorbed from private and public
Irish collections of Japanese art.
Gray also had a 30 year working collaboration with
Seizō Sugawara (1884-1937)
from Jahoji, Japan — a town famous for its lacquer work.
Sugawara was her most immediate contact with Japan,
and Sugawara’s contribution has been sidelined in
studies of Gray’s lacquer work. Why?
I believe my research will add new insights to
Gray as an artist,
suggesting new interpretations of her work
in the light of the previously overlooked
Influence of Japonisme and Sugawara on Gray.

"MISS GRAY... EXPRESSES HERSELF
WITH A TERSENESS THAT IS ALMOST JAPANESE."

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