



Wabi-Sabi: Is it the Winning Factor in Darts?

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A Japanese aesthetic principle known as wabi-sabi emphasizes impermanence, imperfection, and the majesty of the natural world. Contrarily, darts is a game that requires skill and precision. Is it possible to connect the two vastly different concepts? By representing APB in a recent friendly Dart match, we began to understand the connections.

You could approach playing darts with a wabi-sabi mindset. Instead of aiming for perfect land, you could embrace the imperfections that come with the game. For example, rather than getting frustrated when you miss the bullseye, you could appreciate the way the dart landed on the board in a unique and imperfect way because it is not all the time that you must hit big numbers. Sometimes (especially towards the end), missing the bullseye is a blessing. Why, you may ask? Let's get to the basics of darts. The game starts with a score of 501. The score for each turn is calculated and deducted from the players' total. You will win the game once you become the first to reduce the score to exactly zero. Hence the need to strategize by missing the bullseye, or even the dart board to avoid the score from 'burst' if you get

higher scores. Now, is it clearer why missing the board is a blessing? By letting go of the need for perfection, you may find yourself enjoying the game more and feeling less pressure to perform.

One could connect the imperfection of wabi-sabi with darts through the idea of accepting the outcome, whether it is imperfect or not. In wabi-sabi, imperfection is embraced and valued as a part of life, and the same can be said for darts. Sometimes, even the most skilled players may not hit their intended target, but they can still appreciate the imperfection and unpredictability of the game.

Overall, while wabi-sabi and darts may seem like two vastly different concepts, they both celebrate imperfection and offer a unique perspective on the beauty of the imperfect. For us, the novices, embracing the imperfections of our dart throwing skills has somehow helped each of us to not only hit the bullseye and become the finisher for each round, but also accidentally bagged the gold trophy for this match. Arigatou, wabi-sabi!

