

A selection of my articles for Grape magazine 2019-21 (all written under the pseudonym George Lloyd)

News, Business and Current Affairs:

Coronavirus and Olympics top of agenda as election for Tokyo governor kicks off

<https://grapee.jp/en/142850>

Coronavirus pandemic: thermometers and batteries in short supply

<https://grapee.jp/en/138169>

Service matches restaurants struggling in lockdown with jobless staff

<https://grapee.jp/en/139567>

Former Justice Minister arrested amid vote-buying scandal in Hiroshima

<https://grapee.jp/en/142834>

AI chatbot introduced to tackle alarming rise in corona-related suicides

<https://grapee.jp/en/162519>

Can Japan meet its carbon emissions reduction targets?

<https://grapee.jp/en/168901>

Ageing, Childlessness, Solo Living and Pets

Bongo the Robot Dog: like a real dog but quieter, cleaner and cheaper

<https://grapee.jp/en/129990>

Fewer kids, more tourists: abandoned elementary school becomes a hotel

<https://grapee.jp/en/132519>

Lively Walking Pants help the elderly to walk with confidence again

<https://grapee.jp/en/133316>

Fukuroi: Shizuoka town determined to put empty houses to good use

<https://grapee.jp/en/139231>

Home delivery meal kits prove a hit with those who live alone

<https://grapee.jp/en/139574>

Japan's pets: like children, but quieter, cheaper and fluffier

<https://grapee.jp/en/163674>

Kannoji: a temple where pet lovers pray for the rebirth of their beloved cats and dogs

<https://grapee.jp/en/163426>

Hachiko, Japan's favourite dog, may not have been so loyal to his master after all

<https://grapee.jp/en/163418>

Yubari: the oldest town in the world offers Japan a taste of things to come

<https://grapee.jp/en/167313>

A pioneering pet lover: the 'Dog Shogun' Tokugawa Tsunayoshi

<https://grapee.jp/en/163411>

Society

Pachinko: a brief guide to a Japanese obsession

<https://grapee.jp/en/142112>

Why are so many Japanese women pigeon toed?

<https://grapee.jp/en/143064>

The discreet charm of Japan's anti-smoking campaign

<https://grapee.jp/en/143564>

Tokyo: a wonder of the modern world fed by its convenience stores

<https://grapee.jp/en/158532>

Is Japan really a nation of nature lovers?

<https://grapee.jp/en/167461>

AKB48: pioneers of pop music for the 21st century

<https://grapee.jp/en/170099>

In Tokyo, anarchy comes on two wheels

<https://grapee.jp/en/172486>

How Akihabara went from consumer electronics mecca to capital of 'Cool Japan'

<https://grapee.jp/en/173482>

Travel

Jogashima: tiny island offers a welcome break from big city stress

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Kawagoe: sweet potato capital of the eastern world

<https://grapee.jp/en/135592>

A day trip to Nokogiriyama

<https://grapee.jp/en/130912>

Koishikawa Botanical Gardens: the oldest in Japan and rich in stories to tell

<https://grapee.jp/en/133323>

Niigata hotel offers 'forest bathing' package for stressed-out city folk

<https://grapee.jp/en/149320>

Office in ski resort gondola aims to strike winning work-ski balance

<https://grapee.jp/en/155391>

A trip to Snow Monkey Park in the mountains of Nagano prefecture

<https://grapee.jp/en/166311>

Hiraizumi: a fabled earthly paradise made rich by gold dust

<https://grapee.jp/en/169700>

Food and Drink

Why are fruit and vegetables so expensive in Japan?

<https://grapee.jp/en/144861>

The National Banana Research Institute in Yanaka

<https://grapee.jp/en/145733>

Meiji brings back much-loved 'Tea and Biscuits' flavour ice cream tubs

<https://grapee.jp/en/151948>

Plum wine maker looks to jump on craft beer bandwagon with plum shochu highball

<https://grapee.jp/en/151962>

Sojo in Waseda: Tokyo's only Esperanto-speaking vegan restaurant

<https://grapee.jp/en/152490>

Shibuya eatery introduces delicious and warming wild boar hotpot

<https://grapee.jp/en/155421>

Cafe Paulista in Ginza: Japan's first *kissaten* is model for coffee shops across the country

<https://grapee.jp/en/166701>

Art and Architecture

How we became modern: a trip to the Tokyo Advertising Museum

<https://grapee.jp/en/146315>

St. Mary's Cathedral: Kenzo Tange's modernist masterpiece in Waseda

<https://grapee.jp/en/135176>

Waseda El Dorado: a fabulist extravaganza among Tokyo's bland modern buildings

<https://grapee.jp/en/148445>

Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum: tribute to a radical artist

<https://grapee.jp/en/149289>

Profile of Yoshitomo Nara, Japan's most expensive living artist

<https://grapee.jp/en/150043>

Takashi Murakami: Japan's coolest artist on *kawaii* culture

<https://grapee.jp/en/150140>

The Koenji Mural City Project is a celebration of local street artists

<https://grapee.jp/en/154963>

Exhibition of drawings by masterly Yoshio Yoshimura opens in Yokohama

<https://grapee.jp/en/155836>

Manga artist Oki Chu brings 'low-brow' psychedelic art to Okachimachi

<https://grapee.jp/en/157537>

Den-en-chōfu: Ebenezer Howard's utopian garden suburb brought to life in Tokyo

<https://grapee.jp/en/172101>

In praise of Masato Hara, legendary film producer, who has died at 89

<https://grapee.jp/en/171495>

Kuge: Japan's original art snobs have a lot to answer for

<https://grapee.jp/en/171500>

Thatch: humble yet elegant roofing material in search of a new lease of life

<https://grapee.jp/en/174146>

The street art scene in Tokyo

<https://grapee.jp/en/174628>

Kigumi Museum in Waseda is great for fans of traditional Japanese carpentry

<https://grapee.jp/en/179566>

History

What became of the Yoshiwara, Tokyo's old red-light district?

<https://grapee.jp/en/142502>

Karakuri ningyo: the world's first robots

<https://grapee.jp/en/143604>

Kodo: the long-lost art of incense appreciation

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A Japanese history lesson: who were the *burakumin*?

<https://grapee.jp/en/154667>

The lie of the land: how topography made Tokyo the city it is today

<https://grapee.jp/en/157529>

Natsume Soseki in London: "a dog thrown into the company of wolves"

<https://grapee.jp/en/163578>

How the Great Fire of 1657 shaped modern Tokyo

<https://grapee.jp/en/167344>

Remembering the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923

<https://grapee.jp/en/164248>

Paying respect to the 47 *rōnin*, Japan's most famous 'men of honour'

<https://grapee.jp/en/169187>

Ranjatai: priceless piece of wood is source of emperor's most exquisite incense

<https://grapee.jp/en/171505>

Pondering the archetypal outsider at the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Park in Shinjuku

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What did old Edo look like?

<https://grapee.jp/en/174609>

Folklore

Kappa: a water imp among the cutlery and tableware of Kappabashi

<https://grapee.jp/en/135797>

Mu: clue to a legendary lost kingdom in Ojima Komatsugawa Park

<https://grapee.jp/en/143273>

Zashiki warashi: the mythical children who look after your house

<https://grapee.jp/en/145230>

A Japanese fairy story: Urashima Tarō and the Dragon Palace beneath the sea

<https://grapee.jp/en/167365>

Tono: immerse yourself in the distant past with a visit to the cradle of Japanese folklore

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Kotodama: the belief in the magic power of words <https://grapee.jp/en/178742>