



JFLA Lecture Series 26

JAPANESE LITERATURE IN THIS DECADE: HOW A SMALLER WORLD LEADS TO MORE LITERATURE WE CAN ALL ENJOY



Date:

Wednesday, March 4, 7PM

Venue:

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles
(5700 Wilshire Blvd. # 100, Los Angeles, CA 90036)

Admission: **Free**

Street parking is available near JFLA. [Click Here for Parking info](#)
(NO PARKING VALIDATIONS PROVIDED)

In this age of instant access to content via the internet, Japanese literature has become easier to enjoy. While in the past it was often said that Japanese authors existed in a kind of cut off from the rest of the world, presumably due to the fact that relatively few Japanese [Privacy - Terms](#)

were translated into other languages, Japanese literature has enjoyed a wider readership in recent years thanks in special part to internationally successful writers such as Haruki Murakami.

Literary expert and translator Motoyuki Shibata's *Monkey Business*, an annual literary journal available in both Japanese and English which features the writings of modern Japanese authors as well as British and American authors, has contributed to this spread and increasing popularity of Japanese literature across borders. On March 4th, Motoyuki Shibata and acclaimed Japanese author Tomoka Shibasaki will discuss many topics surrounding modern Japanese literature.

The evening will also include a reading by Tomoka Shibasaki from her work.

Lecturers: Motoyuki Shibata, Tomoka Shibasaki

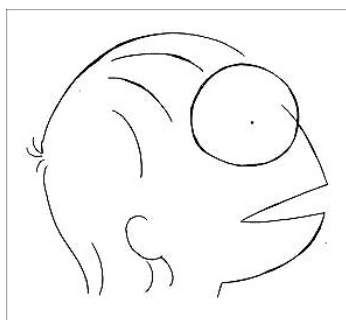


Illustration by Satomi Shimabukuro

Motoyuki Shibata is a gifted author, translator, and American literature and literary translation professor at the University of Tokyo who has been building literary bridges for years now through his annual literary journal *Monkey Business*, a journal available in both Japanese and English which focuses on Japanese writing today but also solicits contributions from American and British writers. In addition to numerous books of essays, he has published translations of works by Paul Auster, Rebecca Brown, Stuart Dybek, Kelly Link, Steven Millhauser, Richard Powers, Thomas Pynchon, Charles Simic, Mark Twain, Steve Erickson, and others.



Tomoka Shibasaki was born in Osaka and began writing fiction while still in high school. After graduating from university, she took an office job but continued writing, managing to get onto the shortlist for the Bungei Prize in 1998. Publication in a magazine of her short story *Reddo, Iero, Orenji, Buru* (*Red, Yellow, Orange, Blue*) the following year marked her debut in print. Her first book, *Kyo no dekgoto* (*A Day on the Planet*, 2000), was turned into a hit movie, thrusting her into the limelight as an author. She is known for novels and stories that capture the sensibilities of young women living in cities. Winner of the Oda Sakunosuke Prize and the Noma New Writers' Award among others, she is the recipient of the 2014 Akutagawa Prize, the most prestigious literary award in Japan. Her books include *Asleep or Awake* (2010), *Viridian* (2011), and *In the City Where I Was Not* (2012).

This event is co-organized by:

and

The Tadashi Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities

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JAPANEMA = Japanese Cinema

Arts & Culture Grants

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Past Events: Exhibitions

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Annual Report

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