



Scuola Italiana di Studi
sull'Asia Orientale
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2010 KYOTO LECTURES

Thursday, June 3rd, 18:00h

Tessa Morris-Suzuki

SPEAKER

Imprinting the Empire Western Artists and the Persistence of Colonialism in East Asia

During the first decades of the twentieth century, a small number of American and European visitors to Japan made names for themselves as practitioners of the art of woodblock printing. At a time when *ukiyo-e* style printing had fallen out of fashion in Japan itself, these foreign artists helped to keep the tradition alive. Several of them also traveled widely though the Japanese empire, finding subject matter for their artworks in Korea, Manchuria and the Japanese mandated Pacific Islands. Their representations of the Japanese empire through this distinctively Japanese artistic medium provide an intriguing window onto the complex nature of western images of Japanese colonial expansion. By following their journeys and their lives, we can observe some of the ways in which Japan's expansion influenced western images of "the Far East". Such images in turn had a formative impact on western political and cultural interactions with East Asia: an impact that survived even after the disappearance of the Japanese colonial empire itself.

Tessa Morris-Suzuki is Professor of Japanese history at the Australian National University. Her research focuses mainly on questions of national identity, borders and minorities, and on Japan's interaction with its Asian neighbours. Her most recent works include *Exodus to North Korea: Shadows from Japan's Cold War* (2007), *Borderline Japan: Foreigners and Frontier Controls in the Postwar Era* (forthcoming 2010) and *To the Diamond Mountains: A Hundred Year Journey Through China and Korea* (forthcoming 2010).

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (conference room 443, 4th floor).

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