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International
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KYOTO LECTURES

Thursday, March 25th, 18:00h

Caroline Hirasawa SPEAKER

The Profit in Portraying Hells for Women in *Tateyama mandara*

During the Edo period (1600-1868) narrations of paintings today called *Tateyama mandara* enabled priests from the foothills of the mountain Tateyama to transport their far-flung sacred landscape to new spaces and thereby to purvey products and services. The priests emphasized the mountain as a portal to the other world and promoted interventions for saving women, seen as doomed to hell without professional assistance. Among the many stories and landmarks illustrated in the images are a series of hells specifically designated for women, repurposed from other image traditions in ways that reveal much about the nature of the Tateyama cult. *Tateyama mandara* reflect contemporary concerns about female reproductive responsibilities and repercussions, and indicate the cult's solutions to the problem of female salvation. This talk will attempt to explore the demand side of these illustrated marketing campaigns.

Caroline Hirasawa is an Assistant Professor of Japanese art history at Sophia University in Tokyo. She has written on the classical and medieval development of hell painting in Japan, and is currently completing a book entitled, *Hellbent on Heaven: Damnation and Salvation in Tateyama mandara*.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room, 1st floor).

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