



Panel Arts

Japanese Kites: At the Crossroads of Arts

Kites in the Haikai Poetic Tradition

 Saturday, August 28, 2021  13:00 – 14:00

Presenter(s)



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How the haikai poets interpreted the kite floating on air? The paper tries to give a comprehensive overview while putting emphasis on one piece, or masterpiece by Yosa Buson (1716-1784): famous poet and painter in the style of Southern School: “A kite floats. At the place in the sky. Where it floated yesterday.” To which the paper tries to give a new interpretation with philosophical insight, so as to highlight the mentality of Tokugawa Japan in the cultural history of the archipelago. As a probe in the air, the kite navigates in accordance with the weather conditions and does not always follow human command. It is in this unstable condition that the Tokugawa poets detect a subtle feeling of life. Yosa Buson, in particular, superimposes on this ephemeral precarity the uncertain consciousness of time and memory of the past. The gliding kite thus transforms into a vehicle crossing between the past and present while forecasting the uncertain future...