

Institute of Comparative Culture Lecture Series

The Curious Lives of Objects:

The Netherlandish Map Comes to Japan

数奇な運命を辿った物：オランダの地図と日本との出会い

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From 17:30

At Room 10-301

What did early modern encounter between Japan and the West look like? Objects have curious lives and afterlives, often far exceeding what their authors could possibly have imagined. This lecture invites the armchair traveler to accompany Abraham Ortelius' well-known book, *Theatrum orbis terrarum* (Antwerp, 1570), from Antwerp to Mantua to Nagasaki to consider the puzzle posed to historians of encounter by the existence of a corpus of Japanese paintings made after printed Netherlandish maps. In their clear display of geographic and historical provenance, these western-inspired maps offer a glimpse into the space between received and produced visions of the world, the imagination at work through topographic discovery, gift exchange and visual translation. In fact, then as now, the visibility of exchange was a field rich with new insights, shared knowledge and perhaps surprisingly fertile misunderstandings that shows how global exposure to difference affected the conceptualization of values on a local level.

No registration necessary/Lecture in English/

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