RECONSTRUCTING THE CONCEPT OF ART IN JAPAN
September 6-7, 2014
Cochrane-Woods Art Center Lecture Hall (Room 157), University of Chicago
5540 S Greenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

How are the research, display, and collecting of Japanese art shaped by late nineteenth-century Western terms today? Is it possible to modify or jettison some of these and still be comprehensible in the global field of art history? How does Japanese art history establish distinctions between “Japan,” “Asia,” “the West,” “early modern,” “modern,” and “contemporary”? How do the legacies of Orientalism and Japonisme continue to shape perceptions of Japanese art today? Are the categories of “painting,” “sculpture,” “craft,” and so forth impeding other visions of the history of objects in East Asia?

Saturday, September 6
Free and open to the public

10:00-10:30  Greetings and Introduction
Chelsea Foxwell (Univ. of Chicago)
Mori Hitoshi (Kanazawa Bijutsu Kōgei Daigaku)

10:30-12:30  Panel 1: ‘Bijutsu’ [Fine Art] and its Discontents
Mori Hitoshi (Kanazawa Bijutsu Kōgei Daigaku)
“The Formation of the Concept of ‘Bijutsu’ in Japan: Another Look”

Yanfei Zhu (Univ. of Chicago)
“Meishu: The Conceptual Metamorphosis of Art in Late Qing and Republican China”

Christopher Paul Bush (Northwestern)
“Japonisme as Global Aesthetic”

12:30-1:30  Lunch for symposium participants

1:30-3:30  Panel 2: High/Low, Center/Periphery: The Early Modern Transition
Anton Schweizer (Tulane)
“High and Low in Architecture: the Sumiya Ageya in Kyoto”

Yurika Wakamatsu (Harvard)
“Hybrid Landscape? Okuhara Seiko’s Sumida River Screens”

Eleanor Hyun (Univ. of Chicago)
“Colors at the Margins: 19th- and 20th-century Korean Art”

3:30-3:50 Coffee/Tea Break
3:50-5:50 Panel 3: Contesting ‘Craft’: The Object in Postwar Japan and Beyond

**Yamazaki Tsuyoshi (Kanazawa Bijutsu Kōgei Daigaku)**

“Postwar Japan for Kōgei (Craft) Artists” 「工芸家たちの戦後日本」

**Yasuko Tsuchikane (The Cooper Union)**

“Destabilizing Multiple Boundaries: Why Picasso’s Ceramics Became Problematic in 1950s Japan”

**Janice Katz (Art Institute of Chicago)**

“What does Contemporary Japanese Art at the Art Institute Look Like?”

5:50-6:15 Wrap-up

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**Sunday, September 7**

**Private Roundtable for Students and Scholars**

10:00-2:00 Roundtable Discussion (Lunch included)

Those with curatorial experience are especially encouraged to participate.

For registration and precirculated readings, please email foxwell@uchicago.edu

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This event is made possible by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; the Committee on Japanese Studies at the Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago; the Center for the Art of East Asia; and the Department of Art History, University of Chicago.