

Announcement of Recipients of Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature and the Lindsley and Masao Miyoshi Translation Prize

New York, New York, March 6, 2020 – Due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the travel restrictions set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Columbia University, the awards ceremony, which was scheduled to take place on Friday, April 3, 2020, has been postponed. A new date for the ceremony will be announced as soon as it is rescheduled.

The Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture announces winners selected by the jury for this year's Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature and Lindsley and Masao Miyoshi Translation Prize.

The Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the calendar year 2019-2020 will be awarded to the following translators, listed in alphabetical order by last name:

Janine Beichman for her translation of Ōoka Makoto's poems in *Beneath the Sleepless Tossing of the Planets, Selected Poems 1972-1989* (Kurodahan Press, 2018)

Sam Bett for his translation of Mishima Yukio's *Star* (New Directions, 2019)

In addition, the Lindsley and Masao Miyoshi Translation Prize will be awarded to the following translators, listed in alphabetical order by last name:

Margaret Mitsutani for her translation of Tawada Yoko's *The Emissary* (New Directions, 2018)

Matt Treyvaud for his translation of Shimura Fukumi's *The Music of Color* (Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2019)

The Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature was established in 1979, and the award has been administered by the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University since the Center was founded in 1986. The Prize is awarded annually to outstanding works of translation into English from the Japanese language.

The Lindsley and Masao Miyoshi Translation Prize was established in 2016, in honor of Lindsley Miyoshi, longtime jury member for the Japan-United States Friendship Commission Prize, and her husband Masao. The prize is awarded on an occasional basis to outstanding or academically significant translations; and, in rare cases, lifetime achievement awards for translators with particularly distinguished careers.

About the Japan United States Friendship Commission:

The Japan United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) was established as an independent agency by the US Congress in 1975 (P.L. 94-118). The Commission administers a US government trust fund that originated in connection with the return to the Japanese government of certain US facilities in Okinawa and for postwar American assistance to Japan. Income from the fund is available for the promotion of scholarly, cultural, and public affairs activities between the two countries.

About the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture:

Founded in 1986 at Columbia University, the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture (DKC) is named in honor of Professor Donald Keene, internationally renowned scholar, Columbia University teacher, and interpreter of Japanese literature and culture to the West. The Center is dedicated to advancing the understanding of Japan and its culture in the United States through university instruction, research, and public education. In addition, the Center seeks to encourage study of the interrelationships among the cultures of Japan, other Asian countries, Europe, and the United States. The DKC is the central institution supporting the study of Japanese culture, literature, and history at Columbia University, and frequently co-sponsors events with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Burke Center for Japanese Art, the Center for Korean Research, and other Columbia centers and institutes.

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