

# With Fresh Eyes:

*Maruyama Okyo's (1733-95) Re-visualization of Kyoto Cityscapes*

Pauline Ota, PhD

UH Manoa Asian Studies Visiting Scholar  
Associate Professor of Art, DePauw University



*Maruyama Okyo (1733-95), "Kiyomizu-dera,"  
Views of Kyoto, 1773, handscroll, ink and light color on  
paper*

Friday, Nov. 4  
3:00 – 4:30 PM  
Moore Hall 258

This talk explores the impact of new visual technologies and nascent consciousness of visual perception on the pictorialization of Kyoto in the mid-eighteenth century. The two case studies are works by Maruyama Ōkyo (1733-95): a handscroll of sixteen “postcard” images of the city, *Famous Views of Kyoto*, and the hanging scroll the *Sublime Trio of Higashiyama* dated 1786. The *Famous Views of Kyoto* presents lyrical, idealized, and elegant paintings of various Kyoto tourist destinations, which have been read by previous scholarship as a figurative journey in and around the urban center. I contend however that these paintings also demonstrate the impact of viewing implements, particularly the telescope, of treatises on vision, and of Dutch Studies commentaries on novel ways to represent what and how we see on the painting practice of the artist Ōkyo and on the viewing habits of those who encountered Ōkyo’s cityscapes. Similarly, the *Sublime Trio of Higashiyama* articulates a break from the traditional representation of Kyoto, depicting a proto-panoramic view that describes the city as an abstract but unified, space.

Center for Japanese Studies  
1890 East-West Road, Moore 216  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Email: [cjs@hawaii.edu](mailto:cjs@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: (808) 956-2665  
Fax: (808) 956-2666

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