

**Fall 2021 Arts of Asia Lecture Series**  
**Crossing Boundaries: Understanding Contemporary Asian Art**  
**Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art***

**“On the Art of Timelessness in Contemporary Japanese Cinema”**

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Overview of Japanese Film History

*Early and silent Japanese cinema (1895-1930)*

- 1912: First Japanese film studio founded, Nikkatsu Corporation (Nippon Katsudō Shashin)
- 1910-1945: Japanese colonial cinema (Korea, Manchuria, Taiwan)

*Classical Japanese cinema (1940-60)*

- Mizoguchi Kenji (1898-1956), Ozu Yasujiro (1903-1963), Naruse Mikio (1905-1969), Kurosawa Akira (1910-98), Kinoshita Keisuke (1912-1998)

Notable films:

Kurosawa, *Rashomon* (1950)

Ozu, *Tokyo Story* (1953)

Mizoguchi, *Ugetsu* (1954)

Naruse, *Floating Clouds* (1955)

Kinoshita, *She Was Like a Wild Chrysanthemum* (1955)

In-between: Kobayashi Masaki (1916-1996), Ichikawa Kon (1915-2008)

*Japanese new wave (aka Shōchiku nouvelle vague) (1959-1980)*

- Suzuki Seijun (1923-2017), Imamura Shohei (1926-2006), Teshigahara Hiroshi (1927-2001), Oshima Nagisa (1932-2013), Shinoda Masahiro (1931-), Yoshida Kiju (1933-)

Notable films:

Suzuki, *Branded to Kill* (1967)

Imamura, *Vengeance Is Mine* (1980)

Teshigahara, *Woman in the Dunes* (1964)

Oshima, *In the Realm of the Senses* (1972)

Shinoda, *Double Suicide* (1969)

Yoshida, *Eros + Massacre* (1969)

In-between: Shindo Kaneto (1912-2012), Yamada Yoji (1931-), Oguri Kohei (1945-),

*Contemporary Japanese cinema (1995-present)*

- Kore-eda Hirokazu, Kitano Takeshi, Iwai Shunji, Aoyama Shinji, Kawase Naomi, Suwa Nobuhiro, Hamaguchi Rysuke

### Notable films:

Kore-eda, *Shoplifters* (2018)  
Kitano, *Fireworks* (1997)  
Iwai, *Love Letter* (1995)  
Aoyama, *Eureka* (2000)  
Kawase, *The Mourning Forest* (2007)  
Suwa, *H Story* (2001)  
Hamaguchi, *Drive My Car* (2021)

### Prominent genres

- *Anime* (Miyazaki Hayao, Takahata Isao, Otomo Katsuhiro Oshii Mamoru, Anno Hideaki)
- *Horror* (Kurosawa Kiyoshi, Nakata Hideo, Sono Sion, Miike Takashi, Shimizu Takashi)
- *Art cinema* (Terayama Shuji, Matsumoto Toshio, Obayashi Nobuhiko)
- *Kaijū* (Honda Ishiro)
- *Yakuza* (Kitano Takeshi)
- *Documentary* (Hara Kazuo)

### Suggested reading

- Furuhata, Yuriko, *Cinema of Actuality: Japanese Avant-Garde Filmmaking in the Season of Image Politics* (2013)
- Gerow, Aaron, *Kitano Takeshi* (2007)
- Fujiki Hideaki and Alastair Phillips, ed., *The Japanese Cinema Book* (2020)
- Lippit, Akira Mizuta, *Atomic Light (Shadow Optics)* (2005)
- Napier, Susan, *Anime from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation* (2005)
- Richie, Donald, *A Hundred Years of Japanese Film: A Concise History, with a Selective Guide to DVDs and Videos* (2005)
- Yomota Inuhiko, *What Is Japanese Cinema? A History* (2019)