

PRESS RELEASE

14 March 2012

Women & Manga

- Connecting with Cultures beyond Japan -

The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam, Women's MANGA Research Project, asianbeat of Fukuoka Prefectural Government, in cooperation with Shojo Manga Power Project, share the delight of hosting a multiple event on Manga entitled "**Women & Manga: Connecting with Cultures beyond Japan**" in Hanoi from March – April 2012.

Manga, which is a kind of lingua franca, is now a global phenomenon connecting with cultures beyond Japan. Particularly, *shōjo manga* or the girls comics genre is interesting owing to its history of more than a half century which has been inspiring women to create, while previously around the world, many comics cultures have targeted boys, not girls.



Elisabeth ©Hideko Mizuno

In this multiple event, we will focus on manga works created by women for women, and explore the potential of such manga cultures beyond Japan, throughout three dimensional events; exhibits of manga works, workshops by manga artists (for invitees only), and an international conference by scholars on comics from different countries.

The exhibition is a visual introduction of *shōjo manga*, focusing on the artworks of two leading Japanese comics artists; Hideko Mizuno and Moto Hagio. Mizuno is one of celebrated *shōjo manga* pioneers who drew sparkling stars in character's eyes, while Hagio is often called "A god of *shōjo manga*" with numerous awards. There will be also a special section to exhibit the artworks of Mutsumi Hagiiwa and FSc (Singaporean) who will come to Hanoi for their workshops and talks. The opening will start at 10am on Wednesday 21 March at the exhibition hall of the Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam (27 Quang Trung) and the exhibition runs until Sunday 15 April.

At the international conference, distinguished scholars and experts on comics will provide academic research topics on comics and manga with Vietnamese interpretations. Studying comics is quite new and this is the first conference in Vietnam solely dedicated to comic studies. The conference will be held at Vietnam Women's Museum (36 Ly Thuong Kiet) from Friday 23 – Sunday 25 March.

We hope that you will enjoy manga not only visually but also academically and enhance the understanding of manga culture, especially of *shōjo manga* through our event. Free of admission.

Ms. Ha Nguyen (Ext. 113) / Ms. Nha (Ext. 115) / Mr. Yoshioka (0123-384-4138)

The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam

27 Quang Trung, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, Vietnam

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■ Credits

Co-Organized by:

The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam
Women's MANGA Research Project
(Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research "B" No. 213200440001)
asianbeat of Fukuoka Prefectural Government

In cooperation with:

Shojo Manga Power Project

Title: Women & Manga: Connecting with Cultures beyond Japan

■ Exhibition

Title: Tradition and History: Hideko Mizuno & Moto Hagio
- two leading Japanese shōjo mangakas in the early days

Duration: Wednesday 21 March – Sunday 15 April 2012
[Exhibition hours] 09:30 – 18:00 (no closed days)

Venue: The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam
27 Quang Trung, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

Contents: 60 cartoon drawings in total
by Hideko Mizuno, Moto Hagio, Mutsumi Hagiwa, FSc

Opening: 10:00 – 11:30 Wednesday 21 March 2012
◆ Introduction of two comics artists: Mutsumi Hagiwa, and FSc
◆ Lecture by Prof. Dr. Masami Toku (California State University)
"Shojo Manga! Girl's Power!"
The lecture will be delivered in Japanese with Vietnamese interpretation.

■ Workshops (for invitees only)

Lecturers: Mutsumi Hagiwa (Japanese), FSc (Singaporean)

Date & time: 10:00 – 11:30 Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March

Venue: The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam
27 Quang Trung, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

Participants: We will invite around 15 – 20 young Vietnamese cartoonists.

Remarks: Media reporters can observe the workshop.

International conference: Paper presentations (23rd) and Lectures (24th, 25th)

Venue: Meeting Hall Level 2 Room 203, Vietnam Women's Museum
36 Ly Thuong Kiet, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

Friday 23 March

The conference on this day will be delivered in English with Vietnamese interpretation.

- 13:00 – 13:10 Welcome words
Chair: Prof. Dr. Fusami Ogi (Chikushi Jogakuen University, Japan)
- 13:10 – 13:40 Mr. Lim Cheng Tju (International Journal of Comic Art, Singapore)
“A Rose by Any Other Name: Considering Alternative Comics by Female Creators in Southeast Asia”
- 13:50 – 14:20 Dr. Gan Sheuo Hui (Kyoto Seika University, Japan)
“Newly Imagined Lives: Portrayals of Young Women in Recent Mainstream Southeast Asian Manga and Comics”
- 14:40 – 15:10 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kazumi Nagaïke (Oita University, Japan)
“What Are Japanese Yaoi/BL Studies?: An Historical and Analytical Overview”
- 15:20 – 15:50 Ass. Prof. Dr. Shige Suzuki (Baruch College, the City University of New York, USA)
“Social Potential of the Comics Medium: Tobe Keiko's With the Light”
- 16:00 – 16:30 Prof. Dr. Jaqueline Berndt (Kyoto Seika University, Japan)
“Gendering Comics: Possibilities and Limitations of “Women’s Manga””

Saturday 24 March

The conference on this day will be delivered in Japanese with Vietnamese interpretation.

- Chair: Assoc. Prof. Kotaro Nakagaki (Daito Bunka University, Japan)
- 14:00 – 14:40 Mr. Pham Hoang Hung (Vietnam National University, Vietnam)
Keynote Lecture
- 14:50 – 15:30 Assoc. Prof. Sakae Kato (Daito Bunka University, Japan)
“Acceptance of Japanese Manga in Vietnam and Its Potentiality”
- 15:50 – 16:30 Assoc. Prof. Yukari Fujimoto (Meiji University, Japan)
“The Dawn of Shōjo Manga before the 1970s”

Sunday 25 March

The conference on this day will be delivered in Japanese with Vietnamese interpretation.

- Chair: Prof. Dr. Jaqueline Berndt (Kyoto Seika University, Japan)
- 14:00 – 14:40 Prof. Dr. Fusami Ogi (Chikushi Jogakuen University, Japan)
“The Golden Age of Shōjo Manga - Kawaii and Cool”
- 14:50 – 15:30 Assoc. Prof. Kotaro Nakagaki (Daito Bunka University, Japan)
“From Shōjo Manga to Women's Manga”
- 15:50 – 16:30 Round table by all scholars and participants
Organized by Mr. Pham Hoang Hung (Vietnam National University, Vietnam)

■ Profiles



(c)水野英子

Hideko Mizuno

Born in 1939. Mizuno debuted as a mangaka [comics artist] in 1956 with *Red Hair Pony*, published in the monthly shōjo manga magazine *Shōjo Club*. She was a leader in a radical innovation of the shōjo manga genre in the 1970's and belonged to the manga artists' collective Tokiwaso [Tokiwa Residence].

Mizuno's style is characterized by a blend of bold story development reminiscent of boys' manga, and shōjo manga qualities such as romance and sensitivity. At the time, young girls read boys' manga and shōjo manga and enjoyed the quite different qualities of both. Mizuno's style gave them the pleasure as girls of having adventures like the boys. From the start of her career, Mizuno's characters' cuteness attracted audiences' attention. Her early masterpiece, *Hoshi no Tategoto (Harp of the Stars, 1960)* is a fantasy story based on North European mythology. This work's characteristics include, the coolness of male characters equipped with somewhat shadowy personalities, as well as romantic elements that Mizuno depicted in an era when love stories were not considered a suitable subject. Mizuno's taste became the ideal that a younger generation of mangaka yearned for and sought to imitate.

Mizuno's important works include the mythological fantasy, *Hoshi no Tategoto (Harp of the Stars)*, the historical romance *Shiroi Troika (White Troika, 1965)*, the romantic comedies *Sutekina Cola (Lovely Cola, 1963)*, *Konnichiwa Sensei (Hello Doc [teacher], 1964)*, and *Honey Honey no Sutekina Bohken (Honey Honey's Wonderful Adventure, 1966)*, as well as the rock and roll youth drama, *Fire! (1969)*. As Mizuno produced one best seller after another, each of these different genres became part of the standard shōjo manga repertoire. *Fire!* is the first shōjo manga hit that centered on a male hero. It depicted a world full of passionate messages transmitted via rock and roll and with a stylish aesthetic. This ground breaking work initiated a trend to feature male heroes in shōjo manga.

Other important works by Mizuno include, *Ludwig II (1986)* and *Elisabeth (Erzsébet, 1993)*. In addition, Mizuno has many fine short story works, such as, *Cecilia (1964)*, *Nire Yashiki (Elm Ville, 1964)*, and *Take no Oto (Bamboo Sounds, 1967)*. Unfortunately, it is not easy to obtain a copy of these titles today.

Award:

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| 1970 | The 15 th Shogakukan Manga Award |
| 2011 | The 39 th Japan Cartoonists Association Award: The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award |



Moto Hagio

Born in 1949. Hagio made her debut in 1969 with *Lulu to Mimi* (*Lulu and Mimi*), which appeared in the summer special issue of the monthly manga magazine *Nakayoshi*. In the 1970's, she played a leading role, along with other mangaka [comics artists], in a radical innovation of the shōjo manga genre.

It was around the 1970's that people came to understand that shōjo manga is not only a genre targeted toward young girls or a particular sex and age group; instead it was reevaluated as a medium fully capable of dealing with matters at the heart of human experience. Hagio greatly contributed to this new movement. Using her reliable artistic ability, compositional skills, and delicate psychological descriptions, Hagio depicted the spiritual experiences of modern people. In so doing, Hagio made use of shōjo manga to push the limits of manga's expressive capacity, and greatly influenced the next generation of manga artists.

Her numerous science fiction manga, including her masterpiece, *Juichinin Iru* (*They Were Eleven*), renewed the notion of shōjo manga, and also lead to an expansion and deepening of that genre. In addition, as in *Juichinin Iru*, which introduces a character whose sex is not identified, Hagio's manga provide many perspectives for reconsideration of gender. Due to these characteristics, Hagio's work became an undeniable influence on the subsequent growth of shōjo manga.

Hagio produced many important works, such as the legendary romance story *Poe no Ichizoku* (*The Poe Clan*) which features a vampire as a character, and others such as *Toma no Shinzo* (*Thomas' Heart*), *Star Red*, *Gin no Sankaku* (*Silver Triangle*), *X+Y*, *Zankoku na Kami ga Shihai Suru* (*A Cruel God Rules*) and *Barubara Ikai* (*Otherworld Barbara*).

Awards:

1976	The 21st Shogakukan Manga Award, Shōnen Shōjo Section
1980, 1983, 1985	The 11 th , 14 th , and 16 th Seiun Award
1997	The 1 st Tezuka Osamu Cultural Award, Excellence in Manga Award
2006	The 27 th Nihon SF Taisho Award
2010	Comic-Con's Inkpot Award
2011	The 40 th Japan Cartoonists Association Award: The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award



Mutsumi Hagiwa

Lives and works in Kita-kyushu, Fukuoka. Hagiwa made her debut in 1978 with *Hato-poppo ga utaereba (If I could sing "Pigeon")*, which appeared in the special issue of the monthly manga magazine *Ribon*. Gaining popularity by her fantastic and heart-warming style, she became one of the top mangakas at the monthly magazine. Hagiwa's important works include: *Ginyobi no otogi-banashi (The Silverday Fairytale)*, *Komugi batake no santo-boshi (The star of the third magnitude above the corn field)*, the "Ganko-chan" series in the monthly manga magazine *YOU* (Shueisha) and the latest manga for study "MARIA VON TRAPP" published by Shueisha. Hagiwa just started to work as an illustrator as well, and has been actively exhibiting her works at galleries and selling her copies of works. Her recent activities and information on her goods are available on her website at <http://hagiwamutsumi.jimdo.com/>



FSc (a.k.a. Foo Swee Chin)

Born in 1977. FSc is a Singaporean comic book artist. She is the creator of several alternative comic books, including "A Lost Stock of Children" and "Mince", both published by Neko Press, as well as "Chimney 25" and "Zeet", both published by Slave Labor Graphics. She is also the co-creator of Slave Labor Graphics title, "Nightmares & Fairy Tales", alongside writer Serena Valentino, illustrating issues 1 – 12, before stepping down in 2005. On 4 June 2008, Slave Labor Graphics released the first "MuZz" graphic novel, containing issues 01 - 09. FSc has also collaborated with video game developer WayForward Technologies, providing creature designs for their horror game "LIT".

■ Selected Artworks

Remarks:

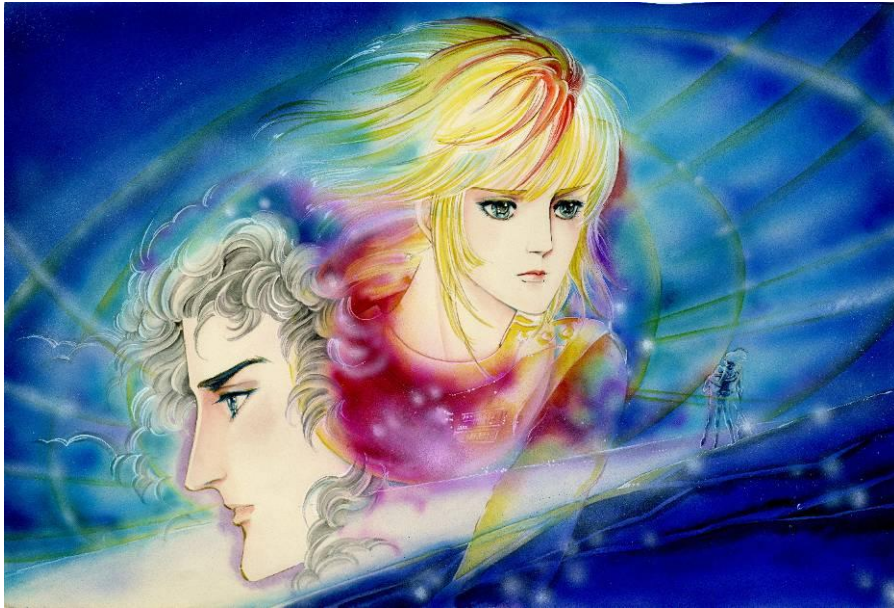
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