

Visions Of Desire Tanizaki S Fictional Worlds

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no japanese writer was more obsessed with desire than tanizaki jun ichiro 1886 1965 over a career that spanned half a century he explored with both joyful fascination and ruthless insight the dazzling varieties of sexuality the complementary attractions of exoticism and nostalgia the human yearning for mastery over others and the tense relationship between fantasy and the exterior world his fiction is filled with portrayals of desire in all its violence irony pathos and comedy in one of tanizaki s novels a young engineer fascinated with the west sets out to transform a japanese bar girl into his very own version of mary pickford he succeeds to such an extent that the girl growing tired of his immutable japaneseness begins to take foreign lovers cuckolded and humiliated though his is the engineer is unable to leave his fantasy come to life and resigns himself to enslavement in another novel a westernized japanese finds himself gradually drawn to the past specifically he is attracted to his father in law s companion a young woman who has been trained and costumed to play the part of an old fashioned mistress though this woman is no more a flesh and blood embodiment of tradition than a bunraku doll the protagonist contemplates a life with someone like her a life defined by the pursuit of abstract dehumanized cultural ideals visions of desire locates such novels in the shifting discourse on cultural identity and cultural aspiration that permeates japanese life ito argues that tanizaki s novels do not merely end in the reification and contemplation of cultural ideals but rather problematize the desire behind such ideals he finds in the writer s fiction a subtle understanding of cultural aspiration as a process riddled with subversions influenced by patterns of

mediation and circumscribed by the lonely efforts of individual subjectivity he discovers in tanizaki s fables about the male effort to transform women into cultural icons a clear awareness of the sexual and class hierarchies that make such transformation possible visions of desire is the first book in english on a writer who is possibly modern japan s greatest novelist ito has written for both the specialist and the general reader setting his argument in a discussion both of tanizaki s times and of the life of a writer who believed in living out the fantasies that fueled his fictions

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desire is like a magician whispering in the ear no matter how kind a person is he may have evil thoughts yes if i were a prisoner beauty taboos and the bottom line of human desires otanizaki is always ahead of the times profoundly influenced edogawa ranpo the father of japanese mysterypraise in the contemporary literary world an important starting point for the dawn of japanese mystery novels junichiro tanizaki a well known aesthetic master in the japanese literary world strongly pursues female body worship beauty and perverted sensual desires in literary creation in order to highlight the flower of evil hidden deep in human nature

intersex figures in modern japanese literature and art explores the history of intersex or futanari figures in modern japanese literature and culture to examine the provocative discourses that defied a sexual regime as the modern nation state of japan advanced its national and imperial designs as sexologists and medical practitioners continued reinforcing categories of male and female normal and pathological intersex literary figures garnered attention because the perceived subject was expected to be

male or female any variation was unintelligible many of the same century old tropes and societal attitudes of needing to cure intersex persist at the same time the 1991 novel *ringu* by suzuki kōji testifies to a denial of futanari subjectivity while the 1998 japanese horror film *ringu* and its 2002 american remake *The Ring* erase intersex all together winston interrogates how the trope of the futanari is deployed for pragmatic or aesthetic purposes thereby complicating the trajectory of the dominant sexological ideology of the time winston reads the figurative futanari in the works of shimizu shikin tanizaki jun ichirō and takabatake kashō and reveals how the artists different approaches to the futanari served their agendas and expressed views that challenged the dominant discourse on intersex

the japan of pure invention not only sheds new light on a seemingly familiar sold chestnut it raises new possibilities for understanding the endurance of orientalism in relation to both whiteness and blackness karen shimakawa author of *National Abjection: The Asian American Body Onstage*

this is a collection of 46 essays by specialists in asian literature who offer a wide range of possibilities for introducing asian literature to english speaking students it is intended to help in promoting multicultural education

this book tracks across history and cultures the ways in which writers have imagined cyclones hurricanes and typhoons collectively understood as tropical weather historically literature has drawn upon the natural world for its store of symbolic language and technical device making use of violent storms in the form of plot drama trope and image in order to highlight their relationship to the political social and psychological realms of human affairs charting this relationship through writers such as

joseph conrad herman melville gisèle pineau and other writers from places like australia japan mauritius the caribbean and the philippines this ground breaking collection of essays illuminates the specificities of the ways local national and regional communities have made sense and even relied upon the literary to endure the devastation caused by deadly tropical weather

this encyclopedia covers culture from the end of the imperialist period in 1945 right up to date to reflect the vibrant nature of contemporary japanese society and culture

essays on japanese authors who achieved prominence and influenced literary development from the beginning of japan s encounter with the west through the end of world war ii includes discussion of the interplay between traditional japanese views of fiction and literary concepts from the west that the japanese examined copied reacted to as well as the dominate literary form throughout the twentieth century the i novel or personal narrative

list of transactions v 1 41 in v 41

collection of essays on the history of photography in southeast asia and east asia that emphasize the ethnographic uses of the medium

a multidisciplinary forrum for communicating new information new interpretations and recent research results concerning japan to the english reading world

profiles more than four hundred authors of short fiction from around the world presenting biographical and bibliographic

information and summaries of major works also includes a reference volume with a chronology a bibliography lists of major award winners twenty nine essays on short fiction history theory and world cultures and three indexes

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