

# CULTURAL FLOW: ECOLOGY, EMPIRE, AND MYTH IN THE ART OF TOMIYAMA TAEKO

CALL FOR PAPERS - DUE FEB. 28, 2025

University of California, Santa Barbara, April 25-26, 2025

*Cultural Flow* is the first English language symposium dedicated to the life and work of Japanese artist Tomiyama Taeko (1921-2021). Born in Kobe, Japan, Tomiyama spent her formative years in Manchukuo, a puppet state of the Japanese empire. Her subject for the last quarter-century has been Japan's colonial empire, its destructive wars in Asia, and the complicated emotional and social legacies left by both war and imperialism after 1945. From the 1960s on, Tomiyama established connections with labor-union, peace, and social-justice advocates in other parts of the world, interactions that broadened and deepened her artistic work.

Tomiyama adopted an interdisciplinary approach, being well-versed in literary, political and religious texts, as well as traveling extensively to find inspiration and artistic influences beyond the Western canon. For this symposium, the first major reassessment of Tomiyama's career in the past 15 years, we invite faculty, independent scholars, curators, and graduate students in the fields of **History, Art History, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Religious Studies, and Environmental Humanities** to submit proposals for papers that shed light on Tomiyama's life, work and adjacent topics.

We encourage proposals that explore topics listed below that represent important facets and/or points of intersection with Tomiyama's worldview. Proposals should be up to 200 words in length.

Paper topics may address (but are not limited to):

- Politics of memory/remembrance
- Ecological concerns
- Imperialism in Asia
- Art as activism and resistance
- Notions of Feminism in Asian context
- Religious traditions and folk beliefs in Asia
- Japan's postcolonial identity
- Transnational movement of artistic ideas

## DEADLINES

- **February 28, 2025: 200-word proposals and CV due to <https://forms.gle/TSEfjaTUWldXHyZE8>**
- March 10, 2025: Decisions shared with applicants.
- April 1, 2025: Program finalized and circulated on social media
- April 25-26, 2025: Symposium at the University of California, Santa Barbara

**UCSB will cover two nights of accommodation (for traveling presenters) and meals for all conference presenters.**

Please contact [carlyleconstantino@ucsb.edu](mailto:carlyleconstantino@ucsb.edu) for any further question.