

International Symposium Chūshingura Ukiyo-e

February 11 (Friday), 2022

Time: **13:30** JST (approx. 3 hours)

Livestream from the Ako City Culture Hall, Japan!

This symposium is held in Japanese.

No participation fees.

Register here ↓↓
bit.ly/akosym



QR code for registration.

For inquiries, please contact :

Art Research Center(ARC), Ritsumeikan University

Email : r-darc@st.ritsumeai.ac.jp



QR code for
database entrance.

●Organizer:
Chūshingura Ukiyo-e International
Symposium Executive Committee
●Co-organizer:
Ako City
Ako City Board of Education
Ako Culture and Midori Foundation
Ako Gishikai
Art Research Center (ARC),
Ritsumeikan University

Topic: **Spreading the Legend of Chūshingura to the World**

Part 1 : Individual Presentations

Ryo Akama (Professor, Ritsumeikan University)

'Revisiting the 12-sheets series of Chūshingura ukiyo-e focused on Kuniyoshi'

Kenichiro Ishibashi (Kabuki Researcher)

'Reading ukiyo-e of Kanadehon chūshingura from a perspective of the History of Performing Arts'

Satoko Shimazaki (Associate Professor, UCLA) *

'From World to Character: Chūshingura Prints in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century'

Annegret Bergmann (Project Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo)

'Chūshingura of the Meiji period reflected in ukiyo-e'

Part 2 : Keynote Speech

Andrew Gerstle (Emeritus Professor, SOAS, University of London) *

'Are the Depictions of Loyalty, Heroism, Tragedy in Kanadehon chūshingura universal?'

Part 3 : Panel Discussion

Andrew Gerstle / Kenichiro Ishibashi / Annegret Bergmann / Satoko Shimazaki *

Coordinator: Ryo Akama

*Remote Participation

Chūshingura Ukiyo-e International Symposium Executive Committee

Secretariat: Editorial Office for the History of Ako City, Ako City Board of Education

This international symposium introduces the changes and characteristics of Chūshingura Ukiyo-e while discussing the significance of publishing information through the Ako City Chūshingura Ukiyo-e Database and directions for using the database.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of Ako City, the symposium is held to promote Chūshingura Ukiyo-e to people in Japan and abroad and facilitate the use of the Chūshingura Ukiyo-e Database.

International Symposium Chūshingura Ukiyo-e

Digital Exhibition Now Open!

Exhibition construction and cooperation : Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

Exhibit I “Various Scenes Depicting the Act of Revenge”



Exhibit II “Ōboshi Yuranosuke ★ The Leader of the Loyal Retainers”



Ako City website (<http://www.city.ako.lg.jp>)

Accessed from the entrance of the Ako City Chūshingura Ukiyo-e Database!

■Keynote Speech : Andrew Gerstle (Emeritus Professor, SOAS, University of London)
'Are the Depictions of Loyalty, Heroism, Tragedy in Kanadehon chūshingura universal?'

■Abstract

The Akō 47 Rōnin incident was relayed in English to Europeans as early as 1822 in the Dutch East India Co. official Isaac Titsingh's *Illustrations of Japan*. Since then from the Meiji period onwards scholars of history and the arts have, when discussing ideals of samurai loyalty and heroes, referred to this 'Chūshingura' incident. Recently Thomas Harper has published a historical novel, *47: the True Story of the Vendetta of the 47 Rōnin of Akō* (2019), based on the historical sources, the most impressive work on this Incident to date.

In my talk, I will examine the portrayal of the main characters in the Jōruri and Kabuki play *Kanadehon chūshingura* (1748) to consider how the tragic consequences of absolute loyalty are depicted.

