



Two Haiku or One?

A Close semiotic Analysis of Two Poems about Silence by Bashō

October 15, 2014, 14:00–15:45

University of Zurich, Main Building, Room KOL F-103, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

Guest Lecture

Prof. Dr. Masako Hiraga, Rikkyo University

The guest lecture looks at the semiotic structure of the following two texts about silence, which are said to be the most famous works composed by the *haiku* master, Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694):

Furuike ya / kawazu tobikomu / mizu no oto

Time-worn pond – ah! / a frog jumps in / water's sound

Shizukasa ya / iwa ni shimiuru / semi no koe

Stillness – ah! / seeps into rocks / cicada's voice

After giving a brief textual explanation, Prof. Hiraga will present a detailed linguistic and semiotic analysis of the rhetorical structure of the texts to illustrate (i) how the global metaphor of "SILENCE IS SOUND" connects the two texts, and (ii) how

this metaphor navigates semiotic interpretations in the revising process, grammatical structure, and phonology across the texts. The analysis is aimed to illustrate that this type of semiotic approach could provide a new interpretation and explication of the interrelated *haiku* in question.

Organization

A cooperation between the Institute for Asian and Oriental Studies – Japanology and the URPP *Asia and Europe*

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