

Public Lecture of Vincent Woo Distinguished Visiting Scholar Programme 2012-13 胡永輝傑出訪問學人講座二零一二至二零一三

Everyday Aesthetics and World-Making

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Yuriko Saito (齊藤百合子) is Professor of Philosophy at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), USA. Born and raised in Japan, she completed her doctorate in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, where she received the Graduate Excellence in Teaching Award. She is also a recipient of the RISD Frazier Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Prof. Saito's specialized field in philosophy is aesthetics, with an emphasis on everyday aesthetics, environmental aesthetics, and Japanese aesthetics. Her book *Everyday Aesthetics* was recently published by Oxford University Press (hardback 2008, paperback 2010) and has been included as a must-read work in "Analytic Approaches to Aesthetics" in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. Her other publications have appeared in a number of academic journals and anthologies, including translations in Polish and Portuguese. Her essays on "Japanese Aesthetics – An Overview" and "Japanese Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature" are included in *The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics* (Oxford University Press, 1998) and their updated versions as well as her new entry on "Everyday Aesthetics" will appear in the forthcoming second edition. She has also lectured widely at universities and conferences, including in Finland, the Netherlands, China, and Japan. She was an invited speaker at a conference on "What Environment Do We Want?" hosted by Lingnan University in 2011.

In addition to teaching and her own research, Prof. Saito works as Associate Editor of *Contemporary Aesthetics*, as Editorial Consultant for *The British Journal of Aesthetics*, and as a member of the Editorial Board for *Environmental Ethics*. She was a co-editor of a special volume on "Artification" published in *Contemporary Aesthetics* (2012). She has also served as a referee for a number of other journals, academic presses, and fellowship and grant applications, both within and outside the USA.

She recently received a book contract from Oxford University Press to write a sequel to *Everyday Aesthetics*, entitled *Everyday Aesthetics and World-Making*. Her public lecture of the same title will discuss a major theme of this forthcoming book.

SYNOPSIS

The project of world-making is carried out not only by professional world-makers, such as designers, architects, and manufacturers. We are all participants in this project through various decisions and judgments we make in our everyday lives. Aesthetics has a surprisingly significant role to play in this regard, though this is not sufficiently recognized. This presentation first illustrates how our seemingly innocuous and trivial everyday aesthetic considerations have serious consequences, determining the quality of life and the state of the world, for better or worse. This exposé of the power of the aesthetic calls for the need to cultivate aesthetic literacy. However, the mission of everyday aesthetics goes further by exploring the ways in which this power of the aesthetic can be harnessed to direct our cumulative and collective world-making project toward a better quality of life, civil society, and a sustainable future.