

Title	My favorite books
Sub Title	
Author	
Publisher	Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University
Publication year	2024
Jtitle	New Kyurizukai No.42 (2024. 11) ,p.7- 7
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	Art from Keio's Faculty of Science and Technology : cultivating artistic observation Fumika Araki : associate professor Department of Foreign Languages and Liberal Arts
Genre	Article
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=KO50001003-00000042-0007

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私の 本棚

My favorite books



● La Grande Officina. Arte Italiana 1460-1500 (André Chastel, Rizzoli)

Italian translation of *Le Grand Atelier d'Italie 1460-1500* (1965), written by André Chastel, who taught art history at the University of Paris and the Collège de France. This book is an incredibly memorable read on Italian Renaissance art from my first year studying abroad at the Sapienza University of Rome. In order to fully grasp the words on the page, I have taken this book with me to museums and churches to explore the artworks it mentions. By comparing it with the French original and the Japanese translation, it has also proven to be a helpful guide in my language learning journey.

● Kindai Kaigashi [A History of Modern Painting] (Shūji Takashina, Chuokoron-Shinsha)

When people hear the name Shūji Takashina, they usually think of *Bi no Shisakuka Tachi* [Those Who Contemplate Beauty] or *Meiga wo Miru Me* [How to Look at Masterpieces]. But the book I want to introduce today is *Kindai Kaigashi*. This book is a very easy to read, even for an inexperienced student of French art history like me. Like all his books, it is a commentary on art, but it is also a book that evokes emotion. I also feel that it is an excellent guide to how Japanese people can approach and understand Western art. I am constantly rereading Prof. Takashina's works.

● Journey Under the Midnight Sun (Keigo Higashino, Shueisha)

Keigo Higashino is known for his incredibly detailed descriptions of action, people, and scenery, making it so that you can practically feel the temperature, hear the sounds, and experience the physical sensations that unfold as you immerse yourself in the story and watch the world of his books come alive before your very eyes. Although *Journey Under the Midnight Sun* takes a look at the dark side of humanity and there are some parts that are almost painful to read, I think that this book proves how Higashino has transcended the mystery genre and created a true piece of literature. It's also an absolute page-turner, so be prepared to lose some sleep!

● Metamorphoses (Ovid, trans. by Zenya Nakamura, Iwanami Shoten)

Greco-Roman mythology, along with the Bible, is required reading when studying Western art history. *Metamorphoses* was written by the ancient Roman poet, Ovid, and describes various stories in which mythological characters are transformed into various creatures and objects. They are very entertaining and have served as inspiration for many of the dramas and children's stories we all grew up with. While these are "pagan" stories from a Christian perspective, their influence on Western thought cannot be understated. There were even medieval textbooks based on *Metamorphoses* that applied a Christian lens to these stories.

● Kagaku no Hon [Book of Science] (Complete set of 10 volumes, Satoshi Kako, Doshinsha)

Now that I am a parent, I have had the wonderful experience of rediscovering Kako's picture books and experiencing a new depth to them that I didn't realize as a child. This 10-volume series uses things that are familiar to children in their environment to help them develop scientific thinking skills. In the seventh volume, *Nandaka Boku ni wa Wakattazo* [I figured out what it is!]. Children can learn about various materials and their properties. In the afterword, the author writes that memorization is not the most important thing, rather, "I wanted to pursue something simpler, deeper, and more fundamental --- a scientific attitude and the reason of science." I think this is a great series of books to remind us that learning is fun and can begin with the things closest to us before expanding outward.