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Transition from Painted to Painter: The Female Body of Okinawa and its Women Artists

In pre-war Okinawa, while male painters were striving to be recognized and acknowledged by central art circles, with the exception of female students under the tutelage of Okinawan male teachers, opportunities for Okinawan women as artists were extremely limited. The emergence of Okinawan female artists had to wait until the post-war period. This paper discusses the significance of depictions of Okinawan women wearing Ryukyuan apparel - a favourite subject of both Japanese painters and Okinawan male painters during the war emergency period (1930s and 1940s) - in order to elucidate the social complexities of Okinawan women at that time when Okinawa was under the dominion of the Japanese Empire.

2022.2.18 (FRIDAY) 6 - 8pm JST (ONLINE)

Zoom Pre-registration Link: https://tinyurl.com/2p9f3s6d





Taira Yūki. Poetry of Miniature Garden. 2021. Colour on paper. 194.0 x 521.2 cm. Courtesy of the artist.