



December 2010

Dear KJ contributors, subscribers, and friends:

Distinguished by its deep grounding in Kyoto (and Asia as a whole), by the fine design values of its diverse multicultural content, and particularly by its exceptional all-volunteer production ethic, *Kyoto Journal* has been evolving continuously since it was first published in early 1987, thanks to the outstandingly generous and steadfast support of our publisher Harada Shokei, of Heian Bunka Center, here in Kyoto.

Over nearly 24 years now, we have produced 75 full print editions, including 25 special themed issues — of which six were double-issue “bookzines” — and have brought together a supportive community that spans the globe. We are deeply appreciative of all the kind support that we have received from our valued contributors and dedicated readers. KJ would not exist without this matrix that allows us to showcase inspired “heartwork” and — hopefully — thereby to *inspire*.

In 2011, *Kyoto Journal* will take up the challenge of a major new transition. Shokei is preparing to retire, and the Heian Bunka Center, now undergoing restructuring, will no longer be able to continue sponsoring print issues. However, rather than simply turning KJ loose to sink or swim in today’s unpredictable media environment, Shokei, with characteristic thoughtful commitment, is providing funding so that we can advance KJ’s evolution by tapping into the unprecedented and electrifying potential of 21st century online media.

With this transformation we will of course miss the classic fragrance of printer’s ink, the tactile intimacy and page-by-page flow of the familiar print magazine — and we have not given up hope of finding ways to present special high-production-value issues on paper, from time to time. But the new transformative potentialities of the Web beckon, and we look forward to assailing a new learning curve, confident that we can create digitally-delivered editions of *Kyoto Journal* that are as full, as engaging, and as beautiful as our print issues. And we are eager to pursue new potentialities with a much more interactive, dynamic and diversified website, to be formally launched in late spring of 2011. In addition to exciting new online-only features, we will also be able to make available reader-friendly archives from our still-relevant back issues.

Already in the layout stage is a digital edition of KJ 76, which will include evocative personal reflections by previously unpublished Afghan women writers; news on urban nomads in Mongolia; an account of Cambodia’s little-known Khmer Krom and their quest for justice; historic Gwangju riot photographs by Matthias Ley; an essay on “Between Darkness and Light” in India; an Australian sculptor’s memoir of 1960s





Kyoto; a perceptive exploration of the haiku of Masaoka Shiki; and profiles of independent filmmakers from Japan, India and the Philippines — plus poetry, fiction from the Philippines, interviews, encounters, In Translation, and more. To be released in spring, 2011.

We trust that our contributors will be as enthusiastic as we are to explore our new and wider digital horizons, to share creative ideas with a larger and growing audience. We remain fully committed to presenting KJ content with our distinctive attention to design excellence.

We also pledge to fulfill the spirit of our commitment to our subscribers, by keeping up the quality and sense of purpose inherent to our previously-published print issues, in our ongoing digital issues. If anyone would prefer to receive paper-based magazines, we can offer substitute copies from our diverse and still-relevant collection of back issues (KJs have always been intended to have a long shelf-life!) as listed on our current website. (In this case, [please inform us by email of your choice](#) as soon as possible). If any current subscriber would prefer to simply be reimbursed for the remainder of their subscription, this is also an option. We hope though that our readers will choose to stick with us and see what developments come from this exciting new transformation.

Our 50th issue was all about Transience. Our biggest collaborative project yet, #75, on Biodiversity, dealt with preservation and more importantly, regeneration. We are still learning about these vital principles.

We thank you for your understanding. Please stay with us as we take this next step.

We're reminded of a Lin Yutang quote from our Just Deeds issue (#53):

*Hope is like a road in the country;
there was never a road,
but when many people walk on it
the road comes into existence.*

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