

Panel 17
The Visual, Sculptural and Material

**The Contingent Revolutionariness:
A Reconsideration of Japanese Surrealism Centering on Fukuzawa Ichiro**

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Entering the new century, amid threats of global financial crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, the resurgence of conservatism worldwide has intensified barriers and conflicts between nations. Surrealism has been revisited as people seek to excavate revolutionary intellectual resources from the “sole poetic movement of the twentieth century” that could bridge divisions of class, race, language, and even historical periods, thereby imagining new possibilities beyond contemporary instability. This paper traces the thread of “revolutionary potential” to examine the works of Japanese surrealist painter Fukuzawa Ichiro across different historical periods. It explores the conditions under which surrealism’s revolutionary character emerges or dissolves, ultimately reflecting on how to grasp its subversive essence in the present context.

Biography

Yuanyuan Liao is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Macau, and the Editor of *South China Quarterly: Journal of University of Macau*. Her primary research focuses on surrealist literature and art, and world literature studies.