

NISHI Kanako (1977–) was born in Tehran, Iran, where her family had relocated for her father’s job. She subsequently lived in Japan for several years before moving with her family to Cairo, Egypt, where she spent four of her elementary school years. The male protagonist’s early life in her novel *Saraba!* (So Long!) roughly parallels her own. At 25 she began writing fiction, and made her literary debut in 2004 with the short story collection *Aoi* (Blue). In 2006 she won the Oda Sakunosuke Prize for her novel *Tsutenkaku* (Tower to Heaven), and in 2012 she received the Kawai Hayao Prize for the novel *Fukuwarai* (Funny Face). Her monumental 2014 novel *Saraba!*, in which the action roves across all of the places where she has lived, from Iran to Egypt and Osaka to Tokyo, garnered her the prestigious Naoki Prize. Nishi’s forthright portrayals of the alienation experienced by characters with strong personalities have gained her a wide following, especially among young readers. She is also known as an avid fan of professional wrestling.


WORKS BY NISHI KANAKO @ THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, TORONTO

TITLE	Item ID	Call Number
<u>Butai 舞台</u>	00026814	BUN 895.636 N57 B87 2017
Chodo ii kigire ちょうどいい木切れ *Included in anthology <i>Bungaku 2013 文学2013</i>	00023802	895.63608 B86 2013
<u>Fukuwarai ふくわらい</u>	00025286	BUN 895.636 N57 2015
<u>Gyoko no nikukochan 漁港の肉子ちゃん</u>	00027520	BUN 895.636 N57 G96 2014
Kankokujin no onna no ko 韓国人の女の子 *Included in anthology <i>Bungaku 2020 文学2020</i>	00027372	895.63608 B86 2020
<u>Kiirroi zo きいろいゾウ</u>	00027495	BUN 895.636 N57 K54 2008
<u>Mado no sakana 窓の魚</u>	00026327	BUN 895.636 N57 2011
<u>Omajinai おまじない</u>	*Ebook available on JF OverDrive: jf.overdrive.com/media/9506733	
Saraba! : jo & ge サラバ! 上 & 下	00024312 00024313	895.636 N57 2014
<u>Tsutenkaku 通天閣</u>	*Ebook available on JF OverDrive: jf.overdrive.com/media/9506237	
<u>Utsukushii hito うつくしい人</u>	00026820	BUN 895.636 N57 U87 2011
Burn *Included in anthology <i>Freeman’s: Power</i>	*Ebook available on JF OverDrive: jf.overdrive.com/media/4328427	

WORKS BY NISHI KANAKO AVAILABLE ONLINE

- “Fear of Manners.” Translated by Allison Markin Powell, *Words Without Borders*, 2017, <https://wordswithoutborders.org/read/article/2017-05/may-2017-food-fear-of-manners-kanako-nishi-allison-powell/>.
- “In the Age of Endless Scrolling, Jun’ichiro Tanizaki Helps Us Stand Still.” Translated by Allison Markin Powell, *Literary Hub*, 2019, <https://liithub.com/in-the-age-of-endless-scrolling-junichiro-tanizaki-helps-us-stand-still/>.
- “Merry Christmas.” Translated by Allison Markin Powell, *Fifty Storms*, 2015, <https://fiftystorms.org/merry-christmas-by-kanako-nishi>.
- “On Beauty, Sexual Violence, and Toni Morrison’s the Bluest Eye.” Translated by Allison Markin Powell, *Literary Hub*, 2020, <https://liithub.com/on-beauty-sexual-violence-and-toni-morrison-the-bluest-eye/>.
- “VIO.” Translated by Allison Markin Powell, *Granta*, 2020, <https://granta.com/vio/>.

EVENT INFO

- **JFT Book Club Online: Three Short Works by NISHI Kanako – On beauty, the Female Experience & Othering –** Wednesday, February 8 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
*Check discussion questions to guide your reading: <https://jftor.org/event/jft-book-club-nishikanako/>
- **Transcending Borders: Author NISHI Kanako in conversation with Dr. Christina Laffin**
Friday, March 10 – Sunday, March 19  YouTube @JFToronto
*Check the website for details: <https://jftor.org/event/nishi-kanako-interview/>
- **Online Film Screening of Makuko** *A live-action film based on NISHI Kanako’s novel *Makuko* (まく子)
Friday, March 17 – Sunday, March 19
*Check the website for details: <https://jftor.org/event/nishi-film/>

