

Images, Commodities, Embodied Women: Film Stars in the Spectacle of Japanese Modernity, 1926–1936







Kuroda Seiki, *Woman with a Mandolin*, 1890–1891.

The women of *yōga* are placed in a field of vision that floods their bodies with light and displays them with a precision and acuity only only possible in the modern age. Perspective, colour and focus give them an enhanced visibility, a quality of spectacle that allows the state of modernity now to manifest itself before the gaze of modernity's actual makers. It is not with their own radiance that the images shine. But for that very reason they are able to represent the 'enlightenment' that the masters of modernity cast upon them, in its purest form.

Norman Bryson, 'Westernizing Bodies: Women, Art and Power in Meiji Yōga' in *Gender and Power in the Japanese Visual Field*, ed. Joshua Mostow et al., Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003, p. 118.



## About the Modern Girl

...highly commodified cultural construct crafted by male jouralists.'

'a phantom projected onto the social landscape by male critics anxious about socio-cultural change.' (Silverberg 2006; 2008)







'mainly media sensation and partially lived reality.' (Lowy 2007)

'a screen on to which all sorts of fantasies and ideas about sexuality could be projected.' (Wada 2011)









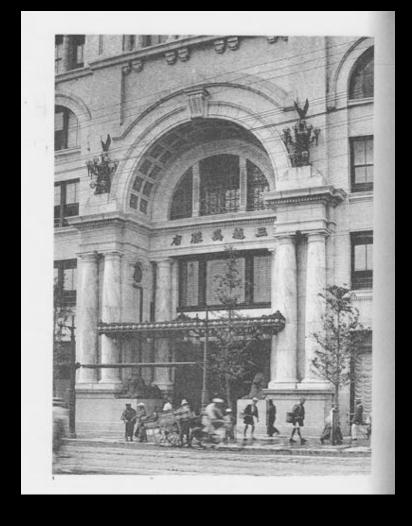
















近代クレオバ





Irie Takako as Ayame in *The Modern Cleopatra* (Kindai no Kureopatora), dir. Hatamoto Shūichi/Abe Yutaka, Nikkatsu 1928.









Irie Takako still from 'Kindai Cleopatra' eiga monogatari, Bungei jidai, January 1929

Clara Bow on the cover of *Kinema junpō*, 11 February 1927

Irie Takako promotional still for *Kindai Cleopatra*, *Asahi shimbun*, 1 Sep 1929





Irie Takako (left) and Natsukawa Shizue (right) in *Tokyo March* (Tokyo kōshinkyoku, 1929, dir. Mizoguchi Kenji)









Irie Takako and Natsukawa Shizue in *Tokyo March* (Tokyo kōshinkyoku, 1929, dir. Mizoguchi Kenji) (left and middle) and in *Torrent* (Gekiryū, dir. Murata Minoru, 1928) (right)







Japan's first mannequin girl: Hanako at the Shõwa industrial exhibition in 1928

Irie Takako painted by Nakamura Daizaburō (*Fujo*, silk screen, 1930)





Irie Takako in swimming costume



Mannequin girls modelling swimming costumes, *Yomiuri shimbun*, 7 July 1931

		ヴキナス	メイ・ウエスト	入江たか子
身	長	一米六〇	一米六四	_
体	量	一三五ポンド	一二〇ポンド	_
向 1	囲:	八七糎三	九一糎四	八
复 [	廻		六六糎〇四	六四糎二
腰	廻	九五糎二五	九一糎四	д

Mae West, Venus of Milo, Irie Takako: measurements (*Fujin Kōron* 





Irie Takako as Ayame in *The Modern Cleopatra*: plot summary (*eiga monogatari*) in *Bungei jidai*, January 1929



## Mitsukoshi Mannequin-



○最近新しく組織されたした東京マネキンは根部の誘係が回線式市営の経路や経り・同じくは他政策等の設用部分のはてメラミを進んだとしるです。

○我のて会えが国民にも日本大学で代子・田の田子・田田子は干・上班電子の基準です。



Tanaka Seiko (middle): *Mitsukoshi* magazine, January 1929



