

Bye Bye Kitty!!! Between Heaven and Hell in Contemporary Japanese Art **Glossary & Vocabulary List**

fūryū. Composed of two characters meaning “wind” and “flowing.” Wordless ephemeral beauty as seen in various Japanese art forms.

geisha. Composed of two characters meaning “art” and “person.” A professional female companion for men in Japan, trained in music, dancing and the art of conversation.

kawaii. “Cute”; subculture of cute “character goods” and related products.

noh. A form of drama, developed in the medieval period, on highly poetic ghost and Buddhist subjects. Costumes are of brilliant brocade and the main performers generally wear masks of character types. Narration and music is provided by onstage musicians.

otaku. Meaning literally “your home”; obsessed fans, primarily of anime and manga.

yūgen. Meaning literally “dark” or “obscure,” a term in Japanese aesthetics to describe elegant, refined and elusive beauty.