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Sommario/riassunto

Women's Voices in Manga investigates how manga reflect women's gender issues and social problems within the context of Japanese history, culture, and society. Manga illuminate how women have been treated stereotypically and confined to their gender roles. Fictional characters—surrogates for both creators and readers—have continuously challenged and subverted fixed cultural images, notions, and expressions of women. The first section of the book features research articles on the depiction of women in manga. Contributions of chapters come from scholars in diverse fields, including manga studies, history, art education, literary studies, and gender studies. The second section presents the life stories of prominent women artists Watanabe Masako (b.1929), Mizuno Hideko (b.1939), and Satonaka Machiko (b. 1948), capturing their voices and social messages through interviews. Finally, the third section introduces a translated manga, Abe: A Young Woman Emperor-in-Waiting, created by Satonaka Machiko, which features one of the six Japanese female Emperors in history, Kken Tenn (later Shtoku Tenn) of the 8th century. Women's Voices in Manga showcases women's issues, portrayals, and lives. The book underscores manga's cultural function to disseminate expressions of women's issues across society, inviting readers to relate these issues to their own lives. Hiromi Tsuchiya Dollase is an associate professor of Japanese language and literature at Vassar College, USA. Her areas of research include Japanese women's literature, girls' magazine culture, and manga. She is the author of Age of Shjo: Emergence, Evolution and Power of Girls' Magazine Fiction in Japan (2019). She has co-edited Manga!: Visual Pop-Culture in ARTS Education (2020) with Masami Toku. Masami Toku is a professor of art education at California State University, Chico, USA. Her research interest is the cross-cultural study of children's artistic development and how visual pop-culture influences children's visual literacy. One of her major projects was the international touring exhibition of Girls' Power! Shojo Manga! (2005-2023). She has published a large number of articles, book reviews, book chapters, exhibition catalogs, and books. .