



# Makoto Fujimura: Transfiguration

March 17 through June 1  
Arts Lounge  
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

*Transfiguration*  
Sumi Ink on Belgium Linen, 84 x 396 in. triptych.  
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[makotofujimura.com](http://makotofujimura.com)  
[sachsarts.org](http://sachsarts.org)

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# Makoto Fujimura: Transfiguration

The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation and Penn Live Arts at the Annenberg Center are pleased to present *Makoto Fujimura: Transfiguration*, on view at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts March 17th through June 1st. Makoto Fujimura is an American artist whose process-driven, refractive “slow art” has been described by David Brooks of The New York Times as “a small rebellion against the quickening of time.”

Transfiguration is a visual meditation on transformation, bridging East and West, tradition and contemporary expression. Created with century-old Sumi ink on Belgian linen, the triptych echoes the structure of historical altarpieces, with the central panel slightly raised to align with the shadow of both outer panels. Inspired by Tohaku Hasegawa’s *Shorinzu Byobu* masterpiece of the late 16th century, often called “The Sound of Silence” painting, *Transfiguration* references biblical landscapes from my travels to Israel and Palestine.

The *Transfiguration*, as described in the gospels, is both a moment of divine revelation and a foreshadowing of suffering. This tension—between glory and sacrifice, light and shadow—resonates beyond theology. It is seen in art, nature, and personal transformation. Through layered brushwork and historical materials, this painting invites the viewers to contemplate transfiguration not just as an event, but as an ongoing unveiling of beauty and renewal in a fractured world.



Makoto Fujimura is a leading contemporary artist whose work has been featured in galleries and museums around the world, including The Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, The Huntington Library in California, the Tikotin Museum in Israel, Belvedere Museum in Vienna, C3M North Bund Art Museum in Shanghai, and Pola Museum in Japan. His process-driven, refractive “slow art” has been described by David Brooks of the New York Times as “a small rebellion against the quickening of time.”

Fujimura is the author of 4 books: *Art+Faith: A Theology of Making, Silence and Beauty, Refractions, and Culture Care*. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2023 Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life and the American Academy of Religion’s 2014 Religion and the Arts award. From 2003 to 2009, he served as a Presidential appointee to the National Council on the Arts. He is a celebrated speaker and advocate for the arts and is the recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees. Fujimura is an Equity in Action Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania for the 2024-25 academic year.



This exhibition was made possible with support from the Arthur Ross Gallery and the Office of Social Equity & Community and was produced by Penn Arts Live and The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.



Haejin Shim Fujimura is a seasoned attorney, entrepreneur, and justice advocate. She is the CEO and co-founder of Embers International, a global NGO protecting, restoring, and empowering victims of intergenerational human trafficking. Fujimura also founded the Estuary, which is a space of cultural confluence that incubates her law firm Shim & Associates, Embers International, Culture Care Creative, Academy Kintsugi, and IAMCultureCare. Fujimura is an Equity in Action Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania for the 2024-25 academic year.



#### Sachs Program for Arts Innovation

The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation is a key advocate and critical support system for the arts at Penn. Our vision is that the arts at Penn are embraced as a creative catalyst, driving innovation, inspiration, and action. [sachsarts.org](https://sachsarts.org)



#### Office of Social Equity and Community & Fellows Program

The Office of Social Equity and Community advances Penn’s pursuit of social justice on and around campus by working to name and overcome systemic barriers while building awareness, connection, and understanding. [sec.upenn.edu](https://sec.upenn.edu)



#### Arthur Ross Gallery

The Arthur Ross Gallery is an intimate exhibition space that presents thought-provoking exhibitions of art across cultures, media and time. Housed in the historic Fisher Fine Arts Library building on the main campus of one of the world’s great research universities, the Gallery is free and open to the public. [arthurrossgallery.org](https://arthurrossgallery.org)



#### Penn Live Arts

Penn Live Arts, the University’s home for the performing arts, connects diverse audiences with visionary artists and innovative ideas, engaging both the University and the greater Philadelphia community in transformative artistic experiences. [pennlivearts.org](https://pennlivearts.org)