

Susan Napier ('76)



ORDER OF THE RISING SUN Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

Professor Susan Napier (IUC '76) is a leading scholar of Japanese literature and culture at Tufts University, where she holds the Goldthwaite Professorship of Rhetoric in the Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies. She completed her undergraduate, master's, and doctoral studies at Harvard University. Much of her recent work explores the worlds of Japanese anime and manga.

Over the course of her career, Professor Napier has written extensively on Japanese literature, fantasy, and visual culture. Her early publications include *Escape from the Wasteland: Romanticism and Realism in the Fiction of Mishima Yukio and Ōe Kenzaburō* (Harvard University Asia Center, 1991) and *The Fantastic in Modern Japanese Literature: The Subversion of Modernity* (Routledge, 1996).

Her interest in anime and manga began when a student introduced her to *Akira*, sparking a new direction in her research. She has since become one of the foremost voices in anime studies, authoring works such as *Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2001); *From Impressionism to Anime: Japan as Fantasy and Fan Cult in the Mind of the West* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); and *Miyazakiworld: A Life in Art* (Yale University Press, 2018). She regularly teaches courses on modern Japanese literature, film, animation, and popular culture.

Prof. Napier was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, in Autumn of 2025 in recognition of her contributions towards the dissemination of Japanese culture and the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and the United States.