

# Obituary

## CAROLYN KELLEY WHEELWRIGHT (1939–1989)

Carolyn K. Wheelwright, a leading scholar of Japanese painting and Associate Professor of the History of Art at Yale University, died of cancer in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 19, 1989. She was fifty years old.

Wheelwright was born on July 30, 1939, in New Martinsville, West Virginia. She graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1961, received an M.Ed. degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1966, an M.A. from the University of Iowa in 1973, and a Ph.D. in Japanese Art and Archaeology from Princeton University in 1981.

She joined the faculty of Yale University in 1981 as Assistant Professor, and was named Associate Professor in 1986. At Yale, she was a member of the executive committee on admissions policy, and served as Director of Undergraduate Studies. She taught lecture courses surveying Japanese art, and conducted seminars focusing upon such subjects as narrative art, genre painting, the Kanō school, eighteenth-century prints, and painting of the Momoyama (1573–1615) and Edo (1615–1867) periods.

Known best for her research on sixteenth-century Japanese painting, she is remembered particularly for her work on the Kanō school, the hereditary workshop of professional painters which dominated official painting commissions throughout the Momoyama and Edo periods. Her books include *Japanese Ink Paintings* (Princeton University, 1976), which she co-edited with Yoshiaki Shimizu, and *Word in Flower: The Visualization of Classical Literature in Seventeenth Century Japanese Art* (Yale University Art Gallery, 1989).

Highly admired for her informative and enthusiastic lectures, Wheelwright was frequently invited to give public discourses on aspects of Japanese art history. Some of the most popular of these included the talks she presented in conjunction with the exhibition entitled *Japan: The Shaping of Daimyō Culture 1185–1868*, during the fall and winter of 1988 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

In recent years, Wheelwright increasingly focused scholarly attention upon Japanese genre painting, or *fuzokuga*, which emerged as a popular form of Japanese painting during the third quarter of the sixteenth century. Her last project was a book entitled *In and Out of the Capital: The Kanō Development of Japanese Genre Painting*. Unfortunately, the book remained incomplete at her untimely death.

Wheelwright was the recipient of many academic awards and fellowships during her professional career. In the spring of 1989, she accepted a position at the University of Michigan, but was forced to decline later due to the discovery of her illness.

Carolyn Wheelwright is survived by her mother, Marianne Kelley, of Sarasota, Florida, and a brother, James E. Kelley, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her personal warmth, peerless energy, and meticulous scholarship will be missed by colleagues, students, and friends worldwide.

SHAUNA GOODWIN  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Yale University*