



*Culture Care: Reconnecting with  
Beauty for Our Common Life*  
Available February 2017  
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978-0-8308-4503-3

## “Encompassing, Inspiring, Humble, Bold Vision”

“Culture care is the imaginative effluence of being a faithful follower of Jesus in any time or place. It’s hope borne into places where hope that is truly hope must be realistic, slow, disruptive, and limited. Mako’s encompassing, inspiring, humble, bold vision is life-giving, because it is what life is meant to be. Culture care is needed everywhere.”

— **Mark Labberton**, president, Fuller Theological Seminary

“*Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life* is a generous gift to this generation and the next. It begins with a handful of flowers and ends with a reminder that we were created out of the abundance of God to extend love and wonder. . . . Mako reflects on the need for soul care and the part that beauty plays in that work. . . . Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahalia Jackson, Emily Dickenson, and Vincent van Gogh all make appearances in the book. The ‘soil’ of culture is analyzed, the artists’ ideas are applied to the business world, and these ideas are teased out in application for the artist.”

— **Ned Bustard**, CIVA Blog, January 7, 2015

“*Culture Care* is the application of generative thinking in ways that attend to the ‘soul’ of culture. According to Fujimura, ‘a cultural contribution [may be affirmed] as generative if, over time, it recognizes, produces, or catalyzes more beauty, goodness, and flourishing. ‘For Fujimura, this is a distinctly biblical vision. Beauty finds its ‘integrating premise’ in Christ. Scripture is the matrix for an understanding of what it means to be human and what it means for human beings to thrive culturally. It provides a meta-narrative in which significance in the present is found in relation to the future. . . . *Culture Care* is one way we can align our own vision and work with that of Christ.”

— **Steven C. Wright**, *Christian Worldview Journal*, September 2014

“In his generous and inspiring work *Culture Care*, artist Mako Fujimura suggests that our common culture is not a territory to be captured, but a garden to be cultivated, needing the nourishment of creativity, community, connection, and the generation of beauty. It is a grace-filled call to beat swords into plowshares and take up the work of tilling our common garden.”

— **Cherie Harder**, president, The Trinity Forum

“One thing about Mako impresses me more than his many accomplishments. In the wider artistic community he lives out his faith with grace and compassion. On September 11, 2001, Mako was residing a few blocks from Ground Zero in an area popular with artists. After the



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World Trade Center disaster, with many of these artists shut out of their homes and studios, Mako opened a communal studio to allow them to continue working. He called it his tea house, and dedicated it as ‘an oasis of collaboration by Ground Zero artists.’ At that time, Mako told me, many of these artists were producing works intended to shock, most of them portraying obscenity and violence. On 9/11 reality trumped creativity: what happened in their own neighborhood was more obscene and violent by far than anything they had imagined. In the safety of Mako’s studio, these artists rediscovered other values – beauty, humaneness, courage, gentleness – and their works began to reflect this new outlook.”

– **Philip Yancey**, the *Huffington Post*, December 30, 2014

“What kind of culture do we wish to live within, and how do we get there from here? This is the core question addressed in *Culture Care*, a book suffused with kindness and generosity. It is a book that goes beyond imagination to generation. It suggests and exemplifies ways of being that can help to create well-being. What is the opposite of a vicious cycle—a cycle benevolent, humane, and self-potentiating? We need a term. We need it to name the effect that this wise book can have if we read it, share it, live it.”

– **Robert Schultz**, writer, artist, John P. Fishwick Professor of English, Roanoke College

“With much compassion and courage, Makoto compels us to take our calling seriously to care for and cultivate the cultural soil in which we reside. He encourages us to view culture care as a biblical alternative against the prevalent culture of anxiety and scarcity. This is a posture every follower of Jesus should nurture to embody the gospel.”

– **Mark Raja**, designer, cofounder of Integrated Arts Movement, Bangalore

“*Culture Care* is a beautiful and powerful work of art, and it is about much more than culture, art, beauty, and aesthetics; it is about nothing less than what it means to be human. We all have a spirit that is thirsty for culture, as do societies at large. This book serves up a powerful warning about what happens when that thirst is not quenched; given the state of the world today, I can only hope that everyone in a leadership position reads, rereads, and ponders what he or she can do to care about culture, and actively so.”

– **John C. Bravman**, president, Bucknell University

“Mako offers helpful insights not only for artists, but for all partners in culture care. His acknowledgment of the importance of addressing brokenness, creating safe spaces for sharing journeys, and truth telling reflects an appreciation of the relational and transformational power of engaging in culture care. While the reader could be overwhelmed by the pervasiveness of the challenges, Mako inspires us toward meaningful action. A wonderful contribution!”

– **Alexis Abernethy**, professor of psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary



Makoto Fujimura, author of *Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life*  
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## The Culture Conversationalist of Evangelicalism

Makoto Fujimura is an internationally renowned artist, writer, and speaker who serves as the director of Fuller Theological Seminary's Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts. He is also the founder of the International Arts Movement and served as a presidential appointee to the National Council on the Arts from 2003 to 2009. His books include *Refractions: A Journey of Faith, Art and Culture* and *Silence and Beauty*.

Of his recent book, *Silence and Beauty*, Jessica Hooten Wilson writes in *Books & Culture*: "Truly, the book seems written by a Providence that moved Fujimura through Japan and America at significant moments in history and gifted him with particular talents and insight that allowed him to piece together the tragedy of Nagasaki and 9/11 with the fictional apostasy of Endo's Father Rodrigues and the persecution of a 16th-century tea master. 'My writing will seem refractive in nature,' Fujimura writes at the start of his book, preparing us for the book's layers of narrative, research, and reflection that remind us of his *nihonga* paintings. Because of its entangling of multiple pieces — literary and art criticism, sociological and psychological explorations of Japanese culture, and personal narrative — Fujimura's book is best read both forwards and backwards. It should not be read once and put back on the shelf; rather, it should be drunk like a tonic, like the antidote or inoculative drug that he claims Endo's *Silence* itself is for our culture."

Recognized worldwide as a cultural shaper, Fujimura's work has been exhibited at galleries including Dillon Gallery in New York, Sato Museum in Tokyo, The Contemporary Museum of Tokyo, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts Museum, Bentley Gallery in Arizona, Taikoo Place in Hong Kong, and Vienna's Belvedere Museum. In 2011 the Fujimura Institute was established and launched the Qu4rtets, a collaboration between Fujimura, painter Bruce Herman, Duke theologian/pianist Jeremy Begbie, and Yale composer Christopher Theofanidis, based on T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*.

A popular speaker, Fujimura has lectured at numerous conferences, universities, and museums, including the Aspen Institute, Yale and Princeton Universities, Sato Museum, and the Phoenix Art Museum. Among many awards and recognitions, Bucknell University honored him with the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2012, and the American Academy of Religion named him as its 2014 Religion and the Arts award recipient. He has received honorary doctorates from Belhaven University, Biola University, Cairn University, and Roanoke College.