

NOBEL LAUREATE
OE
KENZABURO

"In Conversation
with Susan Napier"

November 3rd 2011

5:30pm

Cohen Auditorium

Open to the Public.



Nobel Laureate OE KENZABURO

Excerpt from his 1994 Nobel Prize acceptance speech:

Japan, The Ambiguous, and Myself

(...) To define a desirable Japanese identity I would like to pick out the word 'decent' which is among the adjectives that George Orwell often used, along with words like 'humane', 'sane' and 'comely', for the character types that he favoured. This deceptively simple epithet may starkly set off and contrast with the word 'ambiguous' used for my identification in 'Japan, the Ambiguous, and Myself'. There is a wide and ironical discrepancy between what the Japanese seem like when viewed from outside and what they wish to look like. (...)

