

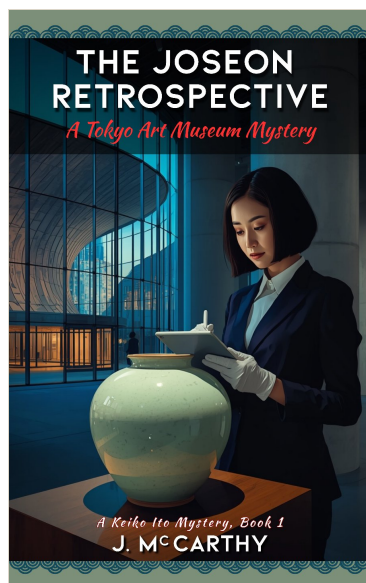
BOOKSELLER INFORMATION SHEET

J. MCCARTHY

LOCAL AUTHOR · SAN DIEGO, CA

THE JOSEON RETROSPECTIVE

A TOKYO ART MUSEUM MYSTERY · A KEIKO ITO
MYSTERY, BOOK ONE



SYNOPSIS

At the National Art Center Tokyo — a real museum that owns nothing, where every object is borrowed and must be returned — Senior Registrar Ito Keiko inspects a celadon moon jar on loan for a landmark exhibition of Joseon dynasty ceramics. Days later, the Korean researcher who accompanied the jar is found dead in a basement service corridor, having left a careful annotation, handwritten in Korean, on page four of Keiko's own condition report.

Keiko is not a detective. She is a registrar — a professional whose career rests on the premise that the documented record, kept with enough care, cannot be argued with. She reconciles discrepancies, and the discrepancies lead her to a letter from 1938, a confiscation dressed in administrative language, and a wrong the record has been waiting all this time to make right.

TRADE DETAILS

SERIES
The Keiko Ito Mysteries, Book One of five
AUTHOR
J. McCarthy — local author, resident of San Diego County
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SHELVES WITH
Cozy mystery · Literary fiction · Museum & art-world fiction · Korea/Japan historical themes · Dark academia

HAND-SELLING HOOKS

- **A sleuth no one else has.** A museum registrar who solves the case through paperwork — condition reports, badge logs, provenance files. Justice through documentation, not deduction.
- **Cross-shelf appeal.** Hand it to cozy readers wanting substance, literary readers wanting a plot, and the dark-academia and museum-fiction crowd all at once.
- **Timely and substantive.** Built on the real restitution of Korean cultural objects taken during the colonial period — a live subject in museums and headlines.
- **A series to grow with.** Book One of five; The Unsigned Falcon follows in Spring 2027 — a backlist in the making.
- **A local author who shows up.** San Diego resident, former acquisitions editor and art educator — available for events, signings, and staff-pick support countywide.

EVENTS & LOCAL-AUTHOR SUPPORT

The author is available for signings, stock signings, and a 45-minute talk on the real museum work behind the fiction — condition reports, provenance research, and the restitution of objects taken during the colonial period. San Diego County dates at no cost to the store.

TO ORDER: INGRAM (iPAGE) & BAKER & TAYLOR UNDER THE ISBNs ABOVE · RETURNS SUPPORTED

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