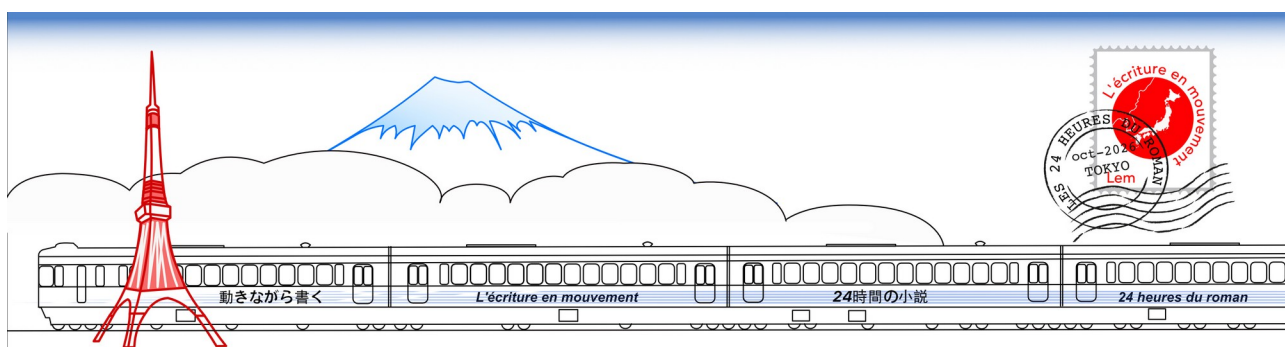


L'écriture en mouvement

presents

Les 24 heures du roman

Japan Edition



An unusual literary event,
shaped by imagination,
culture, and the traditions
of Japan.



www.ecriture-en-mouvement.org

Les 24 heures du roman

An Extraordinary Franco-Japanese Literary Adventure

Paris – Tokyo – Matsue – Tokyo – Paris

Twelve writers, one journey, a thousand stories

In the fall of 2026, a new and unprecedented chapter of *Les 24 heures du roman* will unfold in Japan — its long-awaited second edition.

Six French writers and six Japanese writers, joined by six translators (French and Japanese), will board the legendary *Sunrise Izumo* at exactly 10:00 p.m.

Twenty-four minutes before departure, the first constraint will drop — a discreet chime.

It will signal the beginning of a literary journey written with twelve hands (plus six), deep into the heart of the night.

One chapter per author, written kilometer by kilometer, in this gently swaying palace of vintage charm, gliding through a sleeping Japan.

A cocoon. A closed world. An epic crossing. A one-of-a-kind adventure. An odyssey.

One for all and all for one... novel.

Have you ever heard of the *subway poems* by Oulipian poet Jacques Jouet?

When the train moves, he composes a few lines in his head.

When it stops, he jots them down.

Les 24 heures du roman is, in a way, quite the opposite: writing begins the moment the train sets off — Tokyo, 10:00 p.m. —

and ends twelve hours and 144 pages later, when it comes to a full stop.

Matsue, 9:30 a.m. The first half of the novel is done.

Who are they? A Collaboration Beyond Borders

For twenty-four hours, forging a singular bond between France and Japan, twelve remarkable voices will come together to write one novel — and one novel only.

Each of them is the recipient of a prestigious literary award.

On the Japanese side, every writer has received — no small feat — the **Akutagawa Prize**.

On the French side, Hervé Le Tellier, winner of the 2020 **Prix Goncourt**, will be joined by fellow Oulipo members, along with other leading figures of contemporary literature.

At their side, gifted translators — whose virtuosity commands admiration — will lend their pens to craft a literary creation that is bilingual, bicultural, and entirely unprecedented.

Together, they will bring to life a novel of around 288 pages — one that will, without a doubt, take our breath away, steal our hearts, and carry our minds into a world that is enchanting, magnetic... and utterly unforgettable.

Les 24 heures du roman

An original idea by Anne Forrest-Wilson,
brought to life by

L'écriture en mouvement 2.0

The first passengers

French language:

Paul Fournel (Oulipo)

Hervé Le Tellier (Oulipo)

Frédéric Forte (Oulipo)

Eduardo Berti (Oulipo)

Michaël Ferrier

Richard Collasse

Japanese language:

Ogino Anna

Asabuki Mariko

Toh EnJoe 円城塔

Kanehara Hitomi

Matsuura Hisaki 松浦 寿輝 (en cours)

Horie Toshiyuki 堀江 敏幸 (en cours)

French Translators:

Japanese translators:

Les 24 heures du roman

Paris – Tokyo – Matsue – Tokyo – Paris

Les 24 heures du roman step by step

1. **Prologue – The opening of *Les 24 heures du roman*, Paris**

The French and Japanese writers meet for the very first time.

The Oulipians will gather at the **Maison de la Culture du Japon in Paris** for a special morning session — time difference obliges — while the Japanese authors will take part from the **Institut Français in Tokyo**, where it will be early evening. Financial and institutional partners will attend either from Paris, Tokyo — or perhaps, who knows, from somewhere else entirely.

2. **Stage 2 – Outbound Journey - Sunrise Izumo, Tokyo**

Shortly after discovering the constraint that sparks the writing of the novel's first half, ideas begin to flow — shared, exchanged, woven together.

And then, the first pages appear, unfolding at the same pace as this lord of the rails. This first crucial stage will culminate just after the train glides past *Izumo-Taisha* in the distance — cradle of the nation's creation — and shortly before disembarking.

3. **Stage 3 – The Journey Continues, Matsue**

9:30 a.m. — after twelve hours of travel and writing, our twelve authors, accompanied by their talented translators, arrive in Matsue to a festive welcome at the station.

Salon du Livre Express, meetings with writers, writing workshops, open conversations — the authors immerse themselves in the city for three full days. Because it is **Matsue** that will become the stage — the living setting — for the second half of the novel.

The public, through all these events, will have the chance to witness the creative process behind a novel in the making.

4. **Stage 4 - The Sunrise Izumo Rolls On, Retour – Back to Tokyo**

7:27 p.m. — departure from Matsue, bound for Tokyo.

After three days filled with encounters — with the city, its people, its stories — it's time to dive into the writing of the novel's second half and bring it to completion.

At 7:08 a.m., the train arrives in **Tokyo**.

A breakfast will be served during a *Salon du Livre Express*, celebrating the feat by revealing the very first copy of the future novel.

Fresh off the train, authors and translators will share their experience with the public in the station's lounge area — hot off the press, straight from the rails.

Les 24 heures du roman

Matsue – A Captivating City with a Thousand Faces

After a night of writing aboard the *Sunrise Izumo*, authors and translators unpack their bags in this small, spellbinding town for a three-day stopover.

In Matsue, the novel pauses for breath.

A city of water and silence, wrapped around its lake like a forgotten poem, Matsue offers a landscape that feels both real and dreamlike — a place where inspiration matures slowly.

Here, time stretches out, the light shifts, and the story begins to absorb the real.

They've come not only to write, but to observe, to feel, to meet, to absorb.

They speak with locals, wander through narrow streets, collect anecdotes, discover flavors — and silences.

Every moment in Matsue seeps into the pages still to come.

What wasn't imagined on the train will be discovered here — in gestures, voices, and the quiet poetry of daily life.

In Matsue, words take root — gently, deeply.

This immersion becomes the lifeblood of the novel's second half, written on the return journey to Tokyo.

An Immersive Cultural Experience for the Public

Les 24 Heures du roman is also a celebration of encounters, creativity, and shared moments — through workshops, talks, and roundtables open to all.

Playful Oulipian **writing workshops** invite participants to juggle with words and constraints, discovering the joy of creative limitation.

Presentations, spontaneous conversations, informal exchanges — everything comes together to foster connection and curiosity.

A **one-day *Salon du Livre Express*** — part bookstore, part pop-up library — will be the go-to space to discover the authors' works and speak directly with the French and Japanese writers.

Roundtables and meetings with editors, translators, booksellers, and librarians will give the public in Matsue the chance to experience this unique literary adventure from the inside out.

Culture, imagination, and shared creation will be at the heart of it all:

Crafting *wagashi* in the shape of books, pens, trains...

Designing the book's cover in a public workshop — complete with a contest and prizes to be won.

Writing a story *for* and *with* children — to be illustrated and dreamed up together — in the form of a tautogram (where every word begins with the same letter... for instance, M as in Matsue).



Looking Back at the First Edition

The very first edition of *Les 24 Heures du roman* took place in Canada in October 2015, marking the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's arrival in Ontario.

Twenty-four French-speaking writers travelled from Halifax to Toronto, collaborating over 24 hours to write «*Sur les traces de Champlain : Une aventure extraordinaire en 24 tableaux*» ».

Published in November 2015, the novel was praised for both its literary success and its rich intercultural experience.



"I write in cafés just as I once wrote on trains — not to be misled by imaginary beings, but to regain, through a fleeting glance at a passing stranger, the true measure of joy or sorrow."

Georges Bernanos, *Les grands cimetières sous la lune* (Plon, 1938)

Canada 2015

