

# The Business of Translating Culture Through Documentary Filmmaking in Japan

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 12:45 – 1:45 PM  
Room 640, Geffen Hall, Columbia Business School



*Featuring:*

**Ema Ryan Yamazaki**, Documentary Filmmaker and Academy Award Nominee

*Moderator:*

**Ryoko Ogino**, Managing Director; Co-Founder, Japanese Management Leadership Program, CJEB

*Cosponsors: Columbia Women in Business; Japanese Business Association, Columbia Business School*

The event included an exclusive screening the Academy Award–nominated short film *Instruments of a Beating Heart*. Following the film, Ms. Yamazaki discussed her storytelling strategy and gave her perspective on how her professional journey as a female documentary filmmaker and various aspects of the industry, such as cultural, logistical, and financial considerations, have influenced her decisions as a director and business leader. She shared how the 2025 Academy Award nomination dramatically transformed her life and career, propelling her into a bold new chapter as a visionary filmmaker. She also spoke about creative entrepreneurship and how organizations can leverage partnerships to achieve goals and gain recognition.