



Japanese woman astronaut goes to space in style

日本女太空人 外太空時尚裝

The latest creation by Japanese fashion designer Tae Ashida is truly **out of this world** — a blue cardigan and short pants outfit she made for her country's astronaut Naoko Yamazaki.

The US space shuttle Discovery blasted off with Yamazaki and two other female crew on board, bound for the International Space Station (ISS) on a historic mission that put more women in **orbit** than ever before.

Ahead of her departure, Yamazaki, 39, asked Ashida, daughter of Japanese fashion guru Jun Ashida, to design her work clothes for the 13-day space mission and she came up with a slim knit cardigan in light blue with navy blue shorts.

"As a female designer, I chose a design and color with a sense of grace ... so that she can feel at ease as she carries out a tough mission in a male-dominated, **bleak** atmosphere," Ashida said.

"It's like a dream come true to see my clothes worn in space," said Ashida. "I'm looking forward to seeing her wear my design."

Yamazaki also brought a miniature version of the traditional Japanese harp, known as a *koto*, to the station to play

an ensemble with her countryman Soichi Noguchi, who has carried his Japanese flute to the station.

Yamazaki asked a Japanese musical instrument factory to make a **miniature** version of the *koto*, which usually measures about 1.8m, to meet the size limit for her space shuttle cabin luggage.

"The sound is quite different from that of an authentic one, but I'm very much looking forward to seeing her play the *koto* in space," said instrument maker Kenzo Ogawa, who produced the mini harp. (AFP)

本時裝設計師蘆田多惠的作品，果真只應天上有——她為自己的同胞，女太空人山崎直子，設計藍色羊毛衫加短褲的太空工作服。

美國發現號太空梭這次升空，是搭載山崎直子和另兩名女性太空人上國際太空站，成為史上將最多女性送上外太空的任務。

升空之前，三十九歲的山崎便商請服裝設計大師蘆田淳的女兒蘆田多惠，幫她設計這十三天太空任務要穿的工作服，於是蘆田多惠便想出這一套淡藍色針織羊毛衫與海軍藍短褲。

蘆田多惠說：「身為女性設計師，我選擇優雅的設計和顏色...讓她在以男性為主又陰暗的工作環境中，能感到舒適自在。」

蘆田多惠表示：「看到有人在外太空穿我設計的衣服，就像美夢成真似的。我期待看她穿我設計的衣服。」

山崎直子也帶了小型的日本傳統十三弦古箏上太空，準備與另一位帶著日本笛上太空的同胞野口聰一來一段合奏。

山崎直子特別商請樂器工廠替她打造這小型古箏，以便帶進太空梭。正常的十三弦古箏長度大約有一、八公尺。

製造這個迷你古箏的樂器師傅大川健三說：「這把古箏的聲音與正常古箏的聲音很不一樣，但我非常期待看到她在外太空彈奏這琴。」 (法新社／翻譯：吳岱璽)

Top left: This handout drawing provided by the design studio of Tae Ashida in Tokyo on April 7, 2010 shows an illustration of an outfit made for Japanese astronaut Naoko Yamazaki.

Top right: NASA's STS-131 astronaut Naoko Yamazaki waves as she walks out of the operations and checkout building at Kennedy Space Center April 5, 2010 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. PHOTOS: AFP

上圖左：四月七日，日本時裝設計師蘆田多惠設計工作室提供的這張手繪圖上的服裝，就是專為日本女太空人山崎直子所設計的衣服。

上圖右：四月五日，美國航太總署STS-131號太空人山崎直子，步出佛羅里達州卡納維爾角甘迺迪太空中心的操作校驗大樓時，向大家揮手致意。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS

今日單字

1. **orbit** /'ɔrbit/ n.

軌道 (guei3 dao4)

例：The planets' orbits are not fixed, and change with time. (行星的軌道並不固定，會隨時間改變。)

2. **bleak** /blik/ adj.

陰冷的 (yin1 leng3 de5)，荒涼的 (huang1 liang2 de5)

例：Kelvin was happy to move from the bleak neighborhood he grew up in. (凱文很開心能搬離那個從小長大的荒涼城區。)

3. **miniature** /'miniətʃə/ adj.

小型的 (xiao3 xing2 de5)

例：The team spent years developing the miniature camera. (該團隊花了許多年研發這台小型照相機。)

LANGUAGE POINT

重要片語

out of this world
好得不得了，只應天上有

If something is **out of this world**, it is excellent. In the article, the expression has a double meaning because the outfit will be literally **out of this world** — in space.

Example: "The main course was **out of this world**, but the dessert was pretty average."

如果某個東西「out of this world」，就代表那個東西好得不得了。文中的「out of this world」是個雙關語，那套衣服真的只應天上有——因為在外太空嘛。

例如：「主餐美味的不得了，但甜點很普通」。