



ARTCOURT Gallery

Yagi Art Management, Inc.

OAP ARTCOURT 1F 1-8-5 Tenmabashi Kita-ku Osaka 5300042 JAPAN

Norio Imai Retrospective - *TIME IN SQUARE*



images: 《*TIME IN SQUARE*》 Performance, installation, moving image (video) / 1984

Initiating the use of photography, video and film as new media in his work in the 1970s, Norio Imai gradually shifted the central theme of his art to “time” expression. Imai brought out the material properties of the media then available – photographic film, with its characteristic of being verifiable only after processing, glass cathode-ray tubes with their mirror-image effects, and open-reel videotape, which acts as a “measuring tape of time” – and physically imposed himself, the artist, into their systems. Producing a steady flow of performances, installations and image-media works with increasingly developed layerings of imagery, he attempted to visualize time. At the exhibitions “Re: play 1972/2015”, which opened at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo in fall 2015, and “Performing for the Camera”, on this February at London’s Tate Modern, works created in the photography and video/film media of the time are on display, and the innovativeness of the methods of expression and themes of creation developed by Imai are now being re-examined. Beginning in 1964 with “Testimony of a 17-Year-Old”, his groundbreaking debut solo exhibition, Imai joined the avant-garde art group Gutai Art Association as its youngest member. He contributed works to the group’s “Gutai Exhibitions” and participated actively in the frequently held “Indépendant” exhibitions and in open-submission shows as well. In the 1960s, at the beginning of his creative career, Imai’s “white” canvas pieces with irregular surfaces were pioneering expressions that transcended the borders between painting and relief and sculpture, and in the 1970s, his scope expanded even further, to photography, video and film. This exhibition will be the third installment of Norio Imai’s retrospective exhibitions, following 2012’s “Norio Imai Retrospective - From 17 to 22 Years Old” and 2014’s “Norio Imai Retrospective: Reflection and Projection”.

[Exhibition]

Exhibition title: **Norio Imai Retrospective – *TIME IN SQUARE***

Duration: **March 26 (Sat.) - April 23 (Sat.), 2016** / Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery (OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 5300042 Japan)

Opening hours: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm (Saturdays: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm)

Related Events:

◆ Performance and Reception on Saturday, March 26

◇ Performance *TIME IN SQUARE* : 3:00 pm – 3:20 pm

◇ Opening reception: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

◆ Video Screening and Talk on Saturday, April 16

◇ Video Screening: 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

◇ Talk: 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm / Norio Imai and Kenjin Miwa (Chief Curator of The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)

* Events are free of charge, but an RSVP is required for Performance. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call 06-6354-5444 to reserve.

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery / Cooperated by Tadashi Fukumoto (Video Gram)

Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.



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Exhibition highlights

The title work, *TIME IN SQUARE* (1984/2016), is a repeat performance and redisplayed related installation, and as such, the open-reel videotape and video player are indispensable components. The equipment needed for this event has not been manufactured for many years. Fortunately, we were able to obtain it, thereby making it possible to present this repeat performance and display. In the public performance to be carried out on the opening day of the exhibition, Imai will wind videotape around human-sized foliage trees arranged in a four-by-four-meter square.

— The artist takes the videotape in his hands just after it is recorded and goes about winding it around the trees. On the video, the artist's actions just before this are recorded with a momentary time lag, with the videotape spewing out without being taken up onto a reel, and the artist holding it in his hands and winding it around the trees. This sequence of action and recording progresses, one nesting inside the other, until at last a "square" appears, formed by the tape wound around the trees arranged in a square. After the performance is finished, the piece will be displayed as an installation work. This is one of the main works of "time" expression that Imai has attempted.

Main works to be exhibited (subject to change)

One installation, one video, twenty-four photographs, five flat surface works and one sculpture: thirty-two works in total.

Installation:

TIME IN SQUARE (1984/2016) — A repeat performance (re-creation) of the work on the first day of the exhibition.

Video and photography:

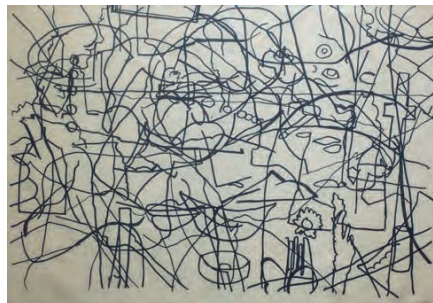
Six-Eight Time (1981) — A performance walking around in a completely dark dome space and photographing/videotaping while flashing a strobe at the viewers. Video and photographs will be on display.

Flat surface works:

Sketching by Video (1974) — Video was projected while sketching with ink on tracing paper, making reproductions every fifteen seconds and repeating seven times. Consists of seven sheets of blueprint and one sheet of tracing paper.



《*Six-Eight Time*》 1981
Performance, installation and moving image (video)



《*Sketching by Video*》 1974
59.4 × 80.5 cm (each, set of 8 pieces) | Blueprint, ink on tracing paper



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Norio Imai Artist Biography - Focusing on the works created in the photography and video/film media

- 1946 Born in Osaka.
- 1964 *Solo exhibition, 17-sai no Shōgen (Testimony of a 17-Year-Old)*, Noonu Gallery, Osaka
14th Gutai Art Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka
- 1965 Graduates from Osaka Municipal High School of Art and Industry, department of fine art, yōga (Western-style painting) program.
15th Gutai Art Exhibition, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
 Joins Gutai Art Association (participates in all Gutai exhibitions until breakup in 1972).
- 1966 *Zero on the Sea*, Internationale Galerie OREZ, The Hague, The Netherlands
 Space of White, galerie 16, Kyoto
10th Shell Art Award Exhibition, Shirokiya Department Store, Tokyo, followed by Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art. Receives first prize.
Trends in Contemporary Art, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto Annex
Solo exhibition, Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
From Space to Environment, Ginza Matsuya Department Store, Tokyo
- 1967 *Gutai group exhibition*, Galerie Heide Hildebrand, Klagenfurt, Austria
5th Biennale de Paris, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, France
1st Sōgetsu Experimental Film Festival, Sōgetsu Hall, Tokyo, followed by Yasaka Hall, Kyoto
- 1968 *8th Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, followed by Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
Contemporary Japanese Art – Fluorescent Chrysanthemum, ICA, London, UK
- 1970 *Gutai Group Display*, Midorikan Pavilion Entrance, Expo'70 World's Fair, Suita
16th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany
- 1971 *10th Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition – Man and Nature*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum,
 followed by Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
Solo exhibition, Walker Gallery, Tokyo
- 1972 *Street Event with Heart Sounds of Three Artists*, Midōsuji Street, Osaka
7th Japan Art Festival, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico,
 followed by Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1973 *8th Japan Art Festival*, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, followed by Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany
- 1974 *Impact Art / Video Art '74*, Galerie Impact, Lausanne, Switzerland
11th Japan International Art Exhibition – Realism in the Age of Reproduced Images, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
- 1975 *10th Japan Art Festival*, touring exhibition to New Zealand and Australia: National Art Gallery (Wellington),
 Museum Victoria (Melbourne) and Queensland Museum (Brisbane).
International Open Encounter on Video, touring exhibition to France, Italy and Argentina: Espace Pierre Cardin (Paris),
 Galleria Civica D'arte Moderna (Ferrara) and Centro de Arte y Comunicación (Buenos Aires).
- 1976 *11th Japan Art Festival Exhibition – Trends in Today's Japanese Art '76*, The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo,
 followed by *The Broadway*, Los Angeles, Henry Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
- 1977 *7th International Open Encounter on Video*, Fundació Miró, Barcelona, Spain
03 23 03 Premières Rencontres Internationales D'art Contemporain, Montréal, followed by National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
Image Expression '77 – Film, Scenery of Time, Kyoto Prefectural Center for Arts and Culture, followed by Image Forum, Tokyo
- 1978 *From Underground Cinema to Private Films*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum
Japan Video Art Festival, Centro de Arte y Comunicación, Buenos Aires, Argentina
X International Open Encounter on Video Tokyo '78, Sōgetsu Hall, Tokyo
- 1979 Starts Daily Portrait series.
Solo exhibition of self-portraits, Ban Garow, Osaka
- 1980 *Video Roma '80*, Museo del Folklore Romano, Rome, Italy
Solo exhibition, Rectangular Time, Galerie Kitano Circus, Kōbe
- 1981 *Solo exhibition with video works*, The Bank, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Norio Imai – Videotape Performance, Video Gallery SCAN, Tokyo
- 1982 *4th Biennale of Sydney*, New South Wales Institute of Technology, Sydney, Australia
Norio Imai 'Self-Portrait', Nakamura Gallery, Osaka
- 1983 *Photography in Contemporary Art – The Works from the 1970s*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo,
 followed by The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.
12th Montreal International Festival of New Cinema, Montreal and two other cities, Canada
- 1984 *AFI International Film Festival*, American Film Institute, Los Angeles, USA
- 1985 *Japan – Avant-garde of the Future*, Palazzo Tursi, Genoa, Italy
Self-Portrait Today, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Urawa
- 1986 *Video Cocktail III*, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
- 1988 *Japan High Technology Art Exhibition*, Taiwan Museum of Art, Taichung, Taiwan
- 1989 *On Kawara – Again and Against 1966-1989*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Nagoya
- 1990 *A Genealogy of Optical Movies*, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Urawa
European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany
Private Visions – Japanese Video Art in the 1980s, touring exhibition: Istituto Giapponese di Cultura, Rome, Italy,
 and elsewhere in Europe and the USA
Japanese Media – Art Now, Hannover, Germany
- 1992 *Japanese Video Art Special – 1980s Edition*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo
Aesthetics of Frames – Animation Theory and Practice, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Urawa
Photography Art in Contemporary Japan, Walker Hill Art Center, Seoul, Korea
- 1994 *Japanese Art After 1945: Scream Against the Sky*, Yokohama Museum of Art
Time/Art – Expressions of Time in Twentieth Century Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga, Ōtsu
- 1997 *Recommendations for an 'T' Art – Why I Was Painted*, Itabashi Art Museum, Tokyo
Norio Imai: Chain of Spheres / Lakebottom Topsoil Score, Mssokhan, Kōbe
- 2006 *Video Art – SCAN Collection Special Screening*, Kawasaki City Museum
- 2007 *Radical Communication: Japanese Video Art 1968-1988*, The Getty Center, Los Angeles
- 2009 *Vital Signals – Early Japanese and American Video Art*, touring exhibition to Japan Society, New York;
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Yokohama Museum of Art;
 The National Museum of Art, Osaka and other locations, continuing into 2010.
- 2011 *Nul=0: The Dutch Nul Group in an International Context*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, The Netherlands
Masked Portrait – When Vibrations Become Forms, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA (continuing into 2012)
- 2012 *Gutai: The Spirit of an Era*, The National Art Center, Tokyo
Norio Imai Retrospective – From 17 to 22 Years Old, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
- 2013 *Gutai: Splendid Playground*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
Norio Imai – White Event, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2014 *Norio Imai – Perspective in White*, Galerie Richard, New York, USA
Image and Matter in Japanese Photography from the 1970s, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
Norio Imai – It Begins with White, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room Shinjuku, Tokyo
Norio Imai Retrospective – Reflection and Projection, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
- 2015 *Norio Imai – Time Collection*, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room Shinjuku, Tokyo
Proportion, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
Norio IMAI, (Part I) Shadow of Memory / (Part II) White Event, Galerie Richard, Paris, France
Re: play 1972/2015—Restaging “Expression in Film '72”, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 2016 *Performing for the Camera*, Tate Modern, London