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Norio Imai

Time Collection

February 14 (Sat) - March 11 (Wed), 2015

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 14

Gallery Talk: Saturday, February 21

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is pleased to present, from February 14, 2015, a solo exhibition *Time Collection* by Norio Imai.

“Time’ which passes every moment, disappears and won’t come back again.
I want to capture this invisible thing in a visual form as much as I can ...
Especially as I stick to not the flow of time, but the depth of time ...”
(Handwritten text by Norio Imai on *Time Clothing*, 1979)

Norio Imai, born in 1946, developed mainly a production of white relief objects in the '60s and steadily presented his works as a young member of the Gutai Art Association, which he had joined at the age of 17. In the '70s, Imai became skeptical about production and shifted his focus to an attempt to utilize nonmaterialistic projection media. Imai developed truly extensive and unique experiments with images from the '70s through to the beginning of the '80s. His photography installation, entitled "Vision - Film" demonstrates the gap between looking through the naked eye and the camera lens as well as the gap between real space and framed space. Then, with "Video Snap", "Time Collection" and others, Imai copies those images brought to daily life through the TV and captures them as layers in time. Finally, the series "Time Clothing", "Self-Portrait" and others illustrate the immediacy of the instant camera (Polaroid) as well as the simultaneity of video. Throughout the process, Imai consistently seeks to embrace the feel of "time" and then make sure of it. Thus his reflection on "time" continues.

The exhibition is held in conjunction with the publication of "Imai Norio, Time Collection" (to be published in February 2015), a collection of Imai's works at tracing his attempts through projection media.



■ Artist Comment

My first exhibit in the Gutai Art Association, in 1964, was my first encounter with contemporary art. However, my interest did not stay with figurative art; eventually I turned toward photography and projection. At the same time, I also started to try filmmaking and slide projection.

Since I presented the first photography works in a group exhibition with non-Gutai members in 1970, I got more involved in non-figurative art, although still using materials. Then, after the Gutai Art Association's dissolution in 1972, photographs became my key medium. In those days when digital photography did not yet exist, I was usually carrying around a heavy camera to capture my creations.

This solo show will mainly feature a part of my photography works produced in the '70s, including the video work I started at the same time. In fact, my attachment was not solely focused on photography itself, but I just had more situations to use a camera (which stops the flow of time) together with video (which keeps the flow of time) in order to demonstrate my interest in space which shifted toward time. My thought in those days was that time is a piece of bamboo and a photograph is its knot; while video is a time axis, extending in a line. In this sense, the works exhibited will show nothing else than achievement of recognition by one artist; neither a professional photographer nor video creator.

Norio Imai

■ Opening Reception

Saturday, February 14, 2015, 18:00-20:00

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

■ Gallery Talk Norio Imai & Kinichi Obinata

Saturday, February 21, 2015, 17:00 - 18:30 *Booking required

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

*For booking, send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to <event@ycassociates.co.jp>

■ Related Information

In conjunction with the exhibition, Anthology of Norio Imai, *Norio Imai Time Collection* written by Kinichi Obinata will be published.

Norio Imai Time Collection

To be published by Suiseisha in February, 2015

A5, 120 pages, ¥3,200 (tax exclusive)

Written by Kinichi Obinata,

Designed by Munetoshi Junichi

*Purchase at the bookstores or online <http://ycassociates.thebase.in/>

■ Profile

Norio Imai

1946 Born in Osaka

1965 Joined Gutai Art Association

1966 Won 10th Shell Art Award

[Selected Solo Exhibitions]

2014 Norio Imai Retrospective – Reflection and Projection, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka

2014 It Begins with White, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo

2014 Perspective in White, Galerie Richard, New York

2013 White Event, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

2012 Norio Imai Retrospective – From 17 to 22 Years Old, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka

2005 Daily Portraits of a Quarter-Century, Mssokan, Kobe

1996 Back & Forth – Norio Imai / White Space 1964-1966, galerie 16, Kyoto

1981 Videotape Performance, Video Gallery SCAN, Tokyo

1981 Video Works, The Bank, Amsterdam, Holland

1980 Rectangular Time, Gallery Kitano Circus, Kobe

1976 6/8 Time, part 2, Art Core Gallery, Kyoto

1971 Walker Gallery, Tokyo

1969 Nuno no Zokei Series [Formal Sculptures in Cloth], Gallery Miyazaki, Osaka



- 1966 Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka
1964 Norio Imai Solo Exhibition – Testimony of a 17-Year-Old, Noonu Gallery, Osaka

[Selected Group Exhibitions]

- 2014 Image and Matter in Japanese Photography from the 1970s,
Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York
2013 Gutai: Splendid Playground, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
2012 Gutai: The Spirit of an Era, The National Art Center, Tokyo
2012 A Visual Essay on Gutai at 32 East 69 Street, Hauser & Wirth, New York
2011 Masked Portrait – When Vibrations Become Forms, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
2011 Nul=0: The Dutch Nul Group in an International Context,
Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Holland
2009 Vital Signals – Early Japanese and American Video Art, 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 (continuing into 2010)
2007 Radical Communication: Japanese Video Art 1968-1988, The Getty Center, Los Angeles
2004 Gutai Retrospective – Commemorating Fifty Years Since Formation, Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kōbe
1994 Japanese Art after 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Yokohama Museum of Art,
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
1993 Video: A New World–The Potential of the Medium, O Art Museum, Tokyo
1985 Self-Portrait Today, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
1983 Photography in Contemporary Art, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo;
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
1982 4th Biennale of Sydney, New South Wales Institute of Technology, Sydney, Australia
1972 Image Expression'72 – Thing, Place, Time and Space – Equivalent Cinema,
Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
1970 Garden on Garden' Outdoor Section Exhibition, Expo '70 Museum, Expo '70 World's Fair,
Suita, Osaka Prefecture
1969 Fluorescent Chrysanthemum–Contemporary Japanese Art, ICA, London
1967 5th Biennale de Paris, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, Paris
1966 From Space to Environment, Ginza Matsuya Department Store, Tokyo
1966 Trends in Contemporary Art, the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto Annex, Kyoto
1964 14th Gutai Art Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

[Public Collection]

Axel and May Vervoordt Foundation, Belgium, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, USA, The Museum of Modern Art, Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts, The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, USA, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, The Miyagi Museum of Art

Kinichi Obinata

Photo archivist / Lecturer, Tama Art University. Born 1960 in Kyoto. Engaged in building an archive on photographer Otsuji Kiyoji as a visiting researcher at Musashino Art University, Research Center for Art and Design. Exhibitions he has organized include "Otsuji Kiyoji: Photography Archive" (Musashino Art University Museum), "Simulation and Form – The Photography and Experiments of Shozo Kitadai" (Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki), and "Eizo 2013" (Setagaya Art Museum, Citizen's Gallery). Co-author of The Concise History of World Photograph (Bijutsu Shuppan-sha); editor of Encounter and Collaboration – The Photographs of Otsuji Kiyoji (Filmart-sha) and Signs – Koji Enokura (Tokyo Publishing House), among others. Heads the photographic production group Todoroki Lab.

■■■ For further information or images, please contact Yumiko Chiba Associates.

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Opening Hours: 12:00 - 19:00 (Closed on Sunday, Monday, National Holiday)