



Norio Imai

SQUARE

Limited Space, 1971, Installation View at Walker Gallery (1971), Photo: Shigeo Anzai ©Norio Imai, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

Saturday, October 9 – Saturday, November 13, 2021

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

#206, Park Grace Shinjuku Bldg., 4-32-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Gallery Hours: 12:00 - 18:00

Closed on Sundays, Mondays, and national holidays

***Opening reception will not be held.**

[Request prior to admission]

*We would like to ask visitors to refrain from visiting the gallery if visitors have symptoms such as a fever, headache, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, loss of taste or smell.

*We request visitors to wear masks. Visitors are also asked to sanitize hands, and non-contact temperature readings upon visiting will be taken before entering the gallery.

*Visitors contact information will be asked as part of contact-tracing measures.

*We kindly ask visitors not to visit in a large group.

*Limited numbers of visitors will be allowed at one time to avoid crowdedness.

The door and window will be left open for ventilation.

Our staff practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces as well as daily health check and staff may wear masks.

Opening hours may be subject to change. Please check our website in advance before planning your visit.

Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku is delighted to present a solo exhibition of Norio Imai, *SQUARE*, opening on Saturday, October 9.

Yumiko Chiba Associates is proud to present an exhibition of work by Norio Imai. Born in Osaka in 1946, at the age of nineteen Imai joined the Gutai Art Association, and remained an active member right up until the group disbanded in 1972.

This exhibition attempts to reconstruct, half a century on, the installation *Limited Space* unveiled by Imai in 1971. Consisting of an oversize carpet laid on the gallery floor, *Limited Space* is a work that spectators can actually enter and experience for themselves.

Also on display at “SQUARE” will be the photographic work *SQUARE-glass/grass* (1970), for which Imai laid a square-meter piece of clear glass on grass, and photographed the resulting phenomenological changes.

Both *Limited Space* with its carpet filling the gallery space, and *SQUARE-glass/grass*, capturing the changes that occur when a sheet of glass is placed on grass, are minimally manipulative attempts to make critical interventions in the world we take for granted, and in the very system by which works of art are exhibited, and in this sense, Imai’s practice could also be described as connected to the global



conceptualism and critiquing of art systems and institutions that emerged in the early 1970s. Don't miss the opportunity to catch this exhibition by an artist just as active and innovative today as he was in the early '70s.

■ Artist Statement

I will be taking a carpet somewhat larger than the actual floor of the gallery and laying it there, running the excess up the wall and battening it in place. Visitors will step into this space. In 2021, half a century exactly after *Limited Space* was first installed in 1971, the work will be not so much a remake, as a follow-up.

A wall of this square gallery space will display the *SQUARE-glass/grass* series of photos. One day in the summer of 1970, I placed a meter-square piece of clear glass on a grassed area. The weight of the glass caused the grass to sink slightly, a square patch of the grass taking on a crushed aspect, and reflecting the blue sky above. Humid air rising from the grass quickly caused the glass to fog up, transmission and reflection mingling in the drops of condensation. For those few minutes, I clicked the shutter over and over.

The relationship between inside and out, front and back, is one that has intrigued me since I first started putting holes and protrusions in canvas, one pursued in my film and photography works as well. And here, the above two works created at different times and in different places, will come together in the same space.

■ Special Talk

Speakers: Norio Imai and Kenjin Miwa (Curator, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT))

Date: Friday, November 12, 2021

Hour: 18:00 – 19:30

Venue: Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku

Admission fee: Free (Booking required. Seating capacity: 12)

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

*If you do not receive a reply from the gallery, please contact us during gallery's opening hours.

*Camera crew will be at the venue during the talk for video-recording.

Kenjin Miwa

Curator, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT). Recent curatorial projects include: "Gordon Matta-Clark: Mutation in Space" (2018, MOMAT; co-curated with Chieko Hirano), "Re: play 1972/2015 | Restaging Expression in Film '72" (2015, MOMAT), "14 Evenings" (2012, MOMAT), "PAUL KLEE: Art in the Making 1883-1940" (2011, MOMAT and The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; co-curated with Yuko Ikeda and Wolfgang Kersten), "Waiting for Video: Works from the 1960s to Today" (2009, MOMAT; co-curated with Mika Kuraya). Recent essays include 'TOEKO TATSUNO ON PAPERS A Retrospective 1969-2012' (Seigensha Art Publishing, 2018), 'Nonsite – Death Valley' in *Works of Robert Smithson exhibited: From "Plastics" (1965) to "Nonsites" (1969)* (The National Museum of Modern Art, 2017), "*David Shrigley: Really Good*" (Yumiko Chiba Associates, 2017) and so on.

■ Artist Profile

Norio Imai

1946 Born in Osaka
1965 Joined Gutai Art Association
1966 Received 10th Shell Art Award

[Selected Solo Exhibitions]

2019 Expo Chicago, Navy Pier Festival Hall, Chicago, USA



- Norio Imai - *Action on Film*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka, Japan
Japanese Art Sound Archive: Norio Imai, Two Heartbeats of Mine, 1976, +1art, Osaka, Japan
- 2018 - 19 Norio Imai: *Material Ecstasy*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Wijnegem, Belgium
- 2016 Norio Imai Retrospective – *Time in Square*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka, Japan
White Event x moving images 1966 – 2016, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 *White Event*, Galerie Richard Paris, France
Shadow of Memory, Galerie Richard, Paris, France
Gutai Works, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong
Time Collection, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 Norio Imai Retrospective – *Reflection and Projection*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
It Begins with White, Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan
Perspective in White, Galerie Richard, New York, USA
- 2013 *White Event*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2012 Norio Imai Retrospective – *From 17 to 22 Years Old*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka, Japan
- 2005 *Daily Portraits of a Quarter-Century*, Musohkan, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
- 1996 *Back & Forth – Norio Imai / White Space 1964-1966*, galerie 16, Kyoto, Japan
- 1981 *Video Works*, The Bank, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Videotape Performance, Video Gallery SCAN, Tokyo, Japan
- 1980 *Rectangular Time*, Gallery Kitano Circus, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
- 1976 *6/8 Time, part 2*, Art Core Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 1971 Walker Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1969 *Nuno no Zoeki Series [Formal Sculptures in Cloth]*, Gallery Miyazaki, Osaka, Japan
- 1966 Gutai Pinacotheca, Osaka, Japan
- 1964 Norio Imai Solo Exhibition – *Testimony of a 17-Year-Old*, Noonu Gallery, Osaka, Japan

[Selected Group Exhibitions]

- 2021 IMAI Norio, NAKAGAWA Yuki *dancing heart / thinking ears*, +1 art, Osaka, Japan
The Borderless Art museum NO-MA, Shiga, Japan
Movie will speak! 2021 Thought and trial of the streaming era, galerie 16, Kyoto, Japan
- 2020-21 50 years anniversary, *Now the GUTAI* Collection of the Hyogo Prefectural Museum Art, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Hyogo, Japan
- 2020 charity & auction *invisible world*, +1 art, Osaka, Japan
250 Years of Kyoto Art Masterpieces The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art Inaugural Exhibition, The Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan
Small Works 1950s-2020, Artcourt Gallery, Osaka, Japan
timelake- Single screen/moment to breathe Exhibition, Kanzan Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019-20 art trip vol.03 *in number, new world*, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo, Japan
- 2019 *WAVES – FREQUENCIES* (30th anniversary of Osaka-Hamburg friendship city alliance), CAS, Osaka, Japan
- 2018-19 *Fluorescent Chrysanthemum Remembered*, Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, Poland
- 2018 *GUTAI-L'ESPACE ET LE TEMPS*, Musée Soulages à Rodez, Rodez, France
- 2017 *Japanese conceptual photography from the 70's*, GALERIE CHRISTOPHE GAILLARD and GALERIE 1900-2000, Paris, France
Becoming & Dissolving, ALICE BLACK, London, UK
Intuition, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
31st Image Forum Festival, *Severed Time, Connected Time: Imai Norio Special Program*, Image Forum, Tokyo, and other locations
46th International Film Festival Rotterdam, Gallery Joey Ramone, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Film and Video Works–Time Severed, Jointed and Stretched, BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 *Fluorescent Chrysanthemum–Contemporary Japanese Art*, ICA, London, UK
Performing for the Camera, Tate Modern, London
- 2015 *Re: play 1972/2015 – Restaging "Expression in Film '72"*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 PROPORTIO, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
Image and Matter in Japanese Photography from the 1970s, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
- 2013 *Gutai: Splendid Playground*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2012 *A Visual Essay on Gutai at 32 East 69 Street*, Hauser & Wirth, New York, USA
Gutai: The Spirit of an Era, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Masked Portrait – When Vibrations Become Forms*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
Nul=0: The Dutch Nul Group in an International Context, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, The Netherlands
- 2009-10 *Vital Signals – Early Japanese and American Video Art*, Japan Society, New York, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
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, USA
- 2004 *Gutai Retrospective – Commemorating Fifty Years Since Formation*, Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kōbe, Japan
- 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, Japan
- 1992 *Photography Art in Contemporary Japan*, Walker Hill Art Center, Seoul, Korea
Aesthetics of Frames – Animation Theory and Practice, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan
Japanese Video Art Special –1980s Edition, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990 European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany



Private Visions – Japanese Video Art in the 1980s, touring exhibition: Instituto Giapponese di Cultura, Rome, Italy, and elsewhere in Europe and the USA

- 1989 *On Kawara – Again and Against 1966-1989*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Nagoya, Japan
1985 *Self-Portrait Today*, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan
1983 *Photography in Contemporary Art*, The National Museum of Modern Art; Tokyo, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
1982 4th Biennale of Sydney, New South Wales Institute of Technology, Sydney, Australia
1974 11th Japan International Art Exhibition – Realism in the Age of Reproduced Images, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Japan
1973 8th Japan Art Festival, Moderna Galerija, Ljubliana, Yugoslavia, followed by Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany
Kyoto Biennale - Art from Art Groups, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Japan
1972 *Image Expression'72 – Thing, Place, Time and Space – Equivalent Cinema*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Japan
1971 *10th Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition – Man and Nature*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, followed by Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Japan
1970 16th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany
Garden on Garden' Outdoor Section Exhibition, Expo '70 Museum, Expo '70 World's Fair, Suita, Osaka, Japan
1968-69 *Fluorescent Chrysanthemum – Contemporary Japanese Art*, ICA, London, UK
1967 5th Biennale de Paris, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, France
1966 *From Space to Environment*, Ginza Matsuya Department Store, Tokyo, Japan
Trends in Contemporary Art, the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
1964 14th Gutai Art Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka, Japan

[Selected Public Artworks]

- 2001 "From Here to Here", Keihan Line Tenmabashi Station, Osaka
2000 "Kōi Nagata Litature Monument", Senpuku-ji Temple, Kakogawa City, Hyogo
1996 "Sphere Sequence", Onidake Garden, Gotō City, Nagasaki
"Spheres of the Heart", Ōtsu City Hall road-side, Shiga
1992 "Sound stone in Harada", Toyonaka City Elderly Care Center, Osaka (Collaboration with Yukio Fujimoto)
1982 "Time Stones 400", in front of Shin-Osaka Station

[Selected Public Collection]

Osaka Prefecture, Japan
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Shiga Museum of Art, Japan
Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan
Ashiya City Museum of Art and History, Hyogo, Japan
Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
Seian University of Art and Design, Shiga, Japan
PhamaScience Collection
Fukuoka City Public Library, Japan
The Miyagi Museum of Art, Japan
The Getty Center, Los Angeles, USA
Axel and May Vervoordt Foundation, Belgium
The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, USA