

Norio Imai

*Clézio, Kôï, Article 9*



May 7 - June 5 2016

HOURS|12:30-18:30

CLOSE|Wednesdays and Thursdays

Performance | 5.7 sat. 16:00—

Norio Imai with Yamada Ahihiro (Dancer)

Reception | 5.7 sat. 17:00—

Galerie Ashiya Schule is pleased to present the solo exhibition by Norio Imai entitled *Clézio, Kôï, Article 9*

#### *Artist's Talk*

Accumulation of unreadable description

Norio Imai

"As you read sentences, you follow the letters with your eyes but you do not look at the letters. You are just reading. You do not look because you can read.

You might look at these letters by now. But soon you will forget looking and go on reading. ...When you cannot read what you were reading, you learn to look.

—Norio Imai *"My art note begun with white"*.

Last year I engaged in paper letter works using a 60-year-old letterpress printing machine for the first time in 15 years. 120 letters in Article 9 of Constitution did I lay one over another, displace, turn over. In addition to various means I also used frottage to emboss, which produced almost, or totally unreadable works.

My first works was a newspaper inlaid with stencil templates. Soon I took part in "Gutai" and I worked on with Le Clézio's works on 1972, Kôï NAGATA's on 2001.

Quite often have I repeated same themes with different means. Now is the first time to put *Clézio, Kôï, Article 9* side to side. Each work is the accumulation of unreadable descriptions. We find extremely difficult to think by ourselves; how about try reading from unreadable letters.

## Biography

Norio Imai

1946 Born in Osaka.

- 2016 Performing for the Camera, Tate Modern, London/ Solo Exhibition 'Norio Imai "White Event × moving images 1966-2016"', Yumiko Chiba Associates viewing room shinjuku, Tokyo
- 2015 PROPORTIO, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice  
Re: play 1972/2015 - Restaging "Expression in Film '72", The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 2014 Solo Exhibition 'Perspective in White', Galerie Richard NY, USA
- 2013 Gutai: Splendid Playground, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA/Solo exhibition, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium/On the Piano, Galerie Ashiya Schule.
- 2012 Gutai: The Spirit of an Era, The National Art Center, Tokyo /Norio Imai Retrospective – From 17 to 22 Years Old, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
- 2011 Norio Imai – Thoughts on the Frame, LADS Gallery, Osaka/Norio Imai – Frame In, CAS, Osaka  
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 in 2012)
- 2010 The Power of Forms – Art of the Rapid Growth Era, (Temporary) Exhibition, Shinsaibashi Space, Osaka Museum of Modern Art
- 2009 Norio Imai – The Inside and Outside of White, Kaede Gallery, Osaka  
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.
- 2006 Radical Communication: Japanese Video Art 1968-1988, Getty Center, Los Angeles
- 2004 Gutai Retrospective – Commemorating Fifty Years Since Formation, Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kōbe
- 1997 Recommendations for an 'I' Art – Why I Was Painted, Itabashi Art Museum, Tokyo
- 1996 Back & Forth – Norio Imai / White Space 1964-1966, galerie 16, Kyoto
- 1994 Time/Art – Expressions of Time in Twentieth Century Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga  
Japanese Art After 1945: Scream Against the Sky, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; then San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in association with the Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens.
- 1993 Gutai II: 1959-1965, Ashiya City Museum of Art and History
- 1988 Japan High Technology Art Exhibition, Taiwan Museum of Art, Taichung, Taiwan
- 1985 Self-Portrait Today, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
- 1983 Photography in Contemporary Art, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, followed by The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.
- 1982 4th Biennale of Sydney, New South Wales Institute of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- 1975 Impact Art / Video Art '74, Galerie Impact, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1972 Street Event with Heart Sounds of Three People, Midōsuji Street, Osaka Image Expression '72 – Thing, Place, Time And Space – Equivalent Cinema, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1970 Garden on Garden, Expo '70 Museum, Expo '70 World's Fair, Suita, Osaka
- 1967 5th Biennale de Paris, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, France
- 1966 10th Shell Art Award Exhibition, Shirokiya Department Store, Tokyo. Wins First Prize.
- 1965 Joins Gutai Art Association. (Imai participated in every Gutai Art Association exhibitions until 1972 when the group broke up.)
- 1964 Solo exhibition, 17-sai no Shōgen (Testimony of a 17-Year-Old), Noonu Gallery, Osaka  
14th Gutai Art Exhibition, Takashimaya Department Store, Osaka

## Public collections

Ashiya City Museum of Art and History / Osaka Prefecture / The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga / Osaka Museum of Modern Art (tentative)/ Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of Art / The Miyagi Museum of Art / The Dallas Museum of Art / The Getty Center, Los Angeles / Vervoordt Foundation

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GALERIE ASHIYA SCHULE