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| Nihon University Film Study Group |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| The Nihon University Film Study Group (Nihon Daigaku Geijutsu Gakubu Eiga Kenkyukai, or Nichidai Eiken for short) was a legendary Japanese filmmaking collective founded in 1957 by Jonouchi Motoharu and Hirano Katsumi, then Nihon University students. Closely affiliated with the university’s leftist organisation, the Japan Revolutionary Communist League (known as the Bund), the collective attracted a number of politically radical students who would become some of the most talented postwar experimental and avant-garde filmmakers in Japan, including Adachi Masao, Ko Hiroo, and Kanbara Hiroshi. Working under the ‘collective’ principle against authorship, the group produced the uniquely existential drama *Kugi to kutsushita no kaiwa* (*Conversation Between Nail and Sock* [1958]); an experimental document of an actual disaster in *N no kiroku* (*The Record of N* [1959]); and an intermedial, cross-generic collage of fiction and documentary in *Pu pu* (*Poo Poo* [1960]). Nichidai Eiken also became the source for the formation of another experimental film collective known as the VAN Eiga Kagaku Kenkyujo (VAN Film Research Centre or VAN for short) in the 1960s, in which the same group of filmmakers started living together communally. Nichidai Eiken members continued to expand their activities by collaborating with other avant-garde collectives (such as Hi Red Center) and performance artists (such as Akasegawa Genpei and Nakanishi Natsuyuki), and by engaging with mixed-media creations. However, Nichidai Eiken and VAN never detached their collective works from politics in favour of the autonomy of art. |
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| Further reading:  (Furuhata)  (Stadt Oberhausen)  (Sas)  (Standish) |