Takahiko, Iimura (February 20, 1937– )

Iimura Takahiko is a pioneering Japanese experimental filmmaker and video artist whose works have explored the fundamental semiotics of media and visual language. Born in Tokyo, Iimura attended Keio University and worked in documentary film production before starting to create his own films in the early 1960s, becoming a central member of Group Independant, a pioneering experimental film group. Early neo-Dada works like *Love* (1962) and *Onan* (1963) explored the materiality of cinema and the body, stripping film down to its essentials, but he could also produce documentary works like *Filmmakers* (1969), an important record of the New York film scene. Just as he moved beyond Japan, establishing a second base in America, Iimura’s work expanded beyond the film medium, exploring intermedial connections, collaborating with other artists like Yoko Ono, Hijikata Tatsumi, and Kusama Yayoi, as well as exhibiting cinema as a form of performance outside the theater. Influenced by structural film, his work from the 1970s on became more conceptual, investigating the semiotics of the image and the status of the “I who speaks” in new media like video. In the 1990s, he also explored computer manipulation of the image. His artistic activities have often been accompanied by theoretical writings on the image.

# References and further reading:

# Iimura, T. (2007) *The Collected Writings of Takahiko Iimura*, Rockville: Wildside Press.

# Ross, J. (2013) “Circle the Square: Film Performances by Iimura Takahiko in the 1960s”, Post: Notes on Modern & Contemporary Art Around the Globe: <http://post.at.moma.org/content_items/290-circle-the-square-film-performances-by-iimura-takahiko-in-the-1960s>

*Takahiko Iimura, Film and Video*, New York: Anthology Film Archives, New York, 1990.

List of works:

*Love* (1962)

*Onan* (1963)

*White Calligraphy* (1967)

*Filmmakers* (1969)

*Self Identity* (1972–1974)

*Observer/Observed* (1975)

*I=You=He/She* (1979), installation

*As I See You You See Me* (1990)

*AIUEONN Six Features* (1993)

Paratextual materials:

Ross, J. Film Performances by Iimura Takahiko in the 1960s

<http://post.at.moma.org/content_items/182-film-performances-by-iimura-takahiko-in-the-1960s>

Images of documents and clips of films at the MoMA site

Media World of Takahiko Iimura

<http://www.takaiimura.com/>

Artist’s website, with clips of selected works

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