

FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

Mon Oct 25 | 8:30 PM

Jack H. Skirball Series

In-theater and virtual screening

Theater tickets \$12/9 members; virtual: \$10/8 members

Series pass \$24

To get tickets, visit: [Women Animation Artists from Japan](#)

Me, Between Somewhere and Nowhere: Women Animation Artists of the 2010s from Japan

Program curated by Koyo Yamashita

The commercial film sector in Japan is predominantly male-dominated. According to Asahi Newspapers, only 3% of film productions by major companies are directed by women. However, a quick look at the independent sector, especially in the field of short animated films, reveals a very different picture.

Beginning in the late 2000s and especially in the 2010s, a new generation of women animation filmmakers has boomed. This strong trend in contemporary Japanese film culture is surprisingly neglected by the main cultural discourse. Without a doubt, there is a problem with a system that excludes interesting young talented artists creating such smart, energetic, and original works. This selection brings together an eclectic mix of films by young female animation artists using a diverse array of techniques to question gender roles and the image of the female body in Japanese society.

This program contains nudity. For mature audiences only.

The Program

Madoka: *GYRØ* (2014) 6 min

The everyday life of an elephant and a woman, his wife, in a lakeside house. Their life together with a certain distance repeats itself. The traces of passing time cover the familiar landscape. One day, an accident happens to this couple living together with contradictions and secrets.

Mizuki KIYAMA: *Bath House of Whales* (2019) 7 min

A bath wide like the sea, reflected in young eyes. An animation based on the filmmaker's memories of accompanying her mother, a person of Korean descent living in Japan, to the public baths.

Hideki KAWAHARA & Maya NUKUMIZU: *I SEE YOU, YOU SEE ME* (2013) 5 min

The girls, under unjust attack, transform and multiply, fired up. No one knows which one of the girls is Alice, nor who is the Queen, and no one knows who started the battle, nor if there is any point. An animated mandala thrusts itself with affection and reflection, while the presence of the texture on the paper leaves a very strong impression.

Chinami TANIGUCHI: *Mayumi* (2016) 6 min

A young girl's parents don't get along, and they aren't able to focus on their daughter. Is she trying to give the love she should have received from her parents to her stuffed animal? Or is it her attempt to love herself? The word "Mayumi" comes out of her mouth again and again, repeating until it becomes a crazed refrain.

Sawako KABUKI: *Anal Juke* (Anal Juice, 2013) 3 min

In a dreamlike sequence, the artist revisits personal and collective traumas, from earthquakes and their aftermaths, to nuclear power and personal heartbreak. The result is a tale of angst and depression that pictures a very charged atmosphere of Japan.

Momoka FURUKAWAHARA: *The Mark of Emi* (2020) 4 min

The protagonist dreams. She dreams of her friend Emi. She touches Emi, who is small, soft, and warm. The protagonist wakes, races to school, and finds it's a pool day in gym class. She's forgotten her swimsuit at home, but Emi's sitting out today's class anyway, so she lends the protagonist her swimsuit. It's too small, too tight.

Mio YAMANAKA: *And, End* (2015) 4 min

"Text" is something that gives form to a particular thought, but depending on your point of view, it can be nothing more than a cluster of connected letters or characters. Just by reordering the characters into different segments as the film proceeds, new words and meanings are created, and imagination overflows endlessly. With its explosively unspooling images, this animation offers an expression of the wonderfulness of "imagining."

Saya ITO: *Soldier School* (2012) 14 min

A boy is sent to a military school to be brainwashed and to become a super-soldier. An absurd animation film which reflects on the pre-war totalitarian regime in Japan.

Minori YAMADA: *Hairy Heaven* (2015) 6 min

A light-hearted animated work in which a rabbit character illustrates the thoughts of a girl concerning the treatment of underarm hair. The girl's feelings of dissatisfaction with

her cohabitating lover's lack of delicacy spring forth as armpit hair that grows longer every day. When this frustration reaches its climax, this hair flows out and transforms into a giant monster who wanders the city at night.

Mika SEIKE: *Starting Over* (2016) 8 min

You fall down every time before reaching your goal. At each fall, the glass you held in your hand breaks, and everything starts over. But there are things one can only discover through repetition. The answer lies within yourself. (Mika Seike)

Rieko OUCHI: *Reply; Repeat Repeated; Delete; Favorite Favorited* (2014) 5 min

Squalid advertising images are displayed in the back alleys of a city. We forget our disgust and feel only a vague irritation. In the same way, junk emails and banners stretched end-to-end across websites are like the bill-boarded roadsides of the internet. This is an animated work that skillfully illustrates this irritation over its 5-minute running time. A depiction of the internet landscape in which typical images of sex and violence flash across the screen.

The Filmmakers

Madoka

Born in Chiba, 1990. Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University, Department of Design, Animation Major in 2012. Graduated from Tokyo University of Arts, Graduate School of Film and New Media, Department of Animation in 2016. She often creates work that is influenced by womanhood and witchery. Works include *Jingiwki* (2012) and *GYRØ* (2014).

Mizuki KIYAMA

Born in 1992, Osaka. During a film festival, she was inspired by short animations made by directors who were in her generation. She then started making her own films. This film was made as a graduation project at the Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts.

Hideki KAWAHARA

Born in 1985 in Okayama. After working in an animation studio, KAWAHARA worked on various commercials and music videos as a freelance animator.

Maya NUKUMIZU

Born in 1982, Kyoto. Since 2005, NUKUMIZU works internationally as an artist, exploring themes of fear and girls who fight.

Chinami TANIGUCHI

Entered the Animation Department at the Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts. *Here is Everything of the World* was selected for the “Japan Tomorrow” section of the 2015 Image forum festival and the 21st Student CG contest/Art Section.

Sawako KABUKI

Kabuki graduated with a Bachelor of Graphic Design from Tama Art University, and later completed her master's after working for a porn video company. Her films have been selected and awarded at festivals in more than 20 countries such as Annecy, Ottawa, Zagreb, Rotterdam, Sundance and SXSW. She is known for her distinct directorial personality in hand-drawn animation.

Momoka FURUKAWAHARA

Furukawahara was born in 1998, and graduated from Tokyo Zokei University with a major in animation in 2020. Her graduation piece, *The Mark of Emi* has won awards at multiple competitions, including the JAAP International Short Film Festival, the New Chitose Airport International Animation Festival, the Japan Media Arts Festival, ISCA2020 and the Campus Genius Contest. She currently works as an animator and a “full power” illustrator.

Mio YAMANAKA

Born in Ehime, Japan. Graduated from Kobe University, Faculty of Human Development, Department of Human Expression. Graduated at Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Film and New Media, Department of Animation. Yamanaka is interested in how to construct animation from words. At the time of production when working on *And, End* (2015) they identified as female, however since then, they identify as non-binary.

Saya ITO

Born 1989 in Sapporo. Graduated from Hokkaido University of Education. Her *Poetry in Motion* (2011) was selected into Chofu Film Festival Short Competition and her co-directed film *Steam in Motion* won a prize in the same festival. *Soldier School* received the “Terayama Shuji” award at the Image Forum Festival in 2012. Her most recent work is *Mythical Boy Mikado* (2018).

Minori YAMADA

Entered the Graphic Design Program at Tama Art University's Graduate School in 2015. Yamada creates works of hand-drawn animation that circle around the theme of “the shape of love.”

Mika SEIKE

Born in Osaka in 1975. In 2014 she began her masters degree, which she completed in March 2016. Previous works include *A Place Where There Are Moths* (2001), *Face to Face* (2007) and *Deep in Reflection* (2012).

Reiko OUCHI

Born in Hokkaidō Prefecture in 1990. Studies filmmaking at Hokkaido University of Education's Graduate School while continuing to create mainly animated works. Major works include *Ed Adam and Lewdness Eve* (2012), *Breath of Sound* (2013) and *Curtain Curtain Curtain* (2014). Ouchi received the Grand Prize at the Image Forum Festival 2016 with her film *I Have the Future* (2016).

The Curator

Koyo YAMASHITA

Born in Tokyo, Japan. Yamashita has been festival director of the Image Forum Festival since 2001 and curator of the Theater Image Forum in Shibuya, Tokyo since 2005. He has been guest curator for many film and media art festivals and film events in and outside Japan, such as: Transmediale (Berlin), Bozar (Bruxells), Arkipel International Documentary and Experimental Film Festival (Jakarta), Seashorts (Malaysia), Seoul New Media Festival Festival (Seoul) etc. Also curator for the film exhibition/DVD project for Japanese emerging independent animation artists, "THINKING AND DRAWING" (2001). He serves as advisor for the collection of film and video at the Asian Culture Center in Kwangju, Korea. He has served as juror for many international film/art festivals such as Hong Kong International Film Festival, Cannes Director's Fortnight, Rotterdam International Film Festival, and Tampere International Film Festival, amongst others.

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