ICA

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New ICA Film Season:
Ogawa Shinsuke and Ogawa Pro
Collective filmmaking and the Culture of Dissidence

17 November - 11 December 2016

"Ogawa's method returns to the original intention of documentary, realizing the principle of documentary. What are the principles and original intention of documentary? First it is a love toward the object documented, a strong admiration and attachment, and it is carrying this first principle over a long period of time. Nearly all the films considered masterpieces fulfil these two conditions."
- Oshima Nagisa

Courtesy of Athénée Français Cultural Center, Tokyo
The Institute of Contemporary Arts is proud to present a season of films dedicated to Ogawa Shinsuke and Ogawa Productions. The ICA is one of the few remaining cinemas in the UK still projecting 16mm film, giving cinephiles the rare opportunity to view these powerful documentaries in their original format.

The documentaries of Ogawa Shinsuke (1936-1992) and the collective of filmmakers Ogawa Productions (Pro), represent a formidable force in post-war independent Japanese documentary. The influence of Ogawa and the collective’s work is still widely felt in Japan and Asian documentaries today.

Their films chronicled the 1960s and 70s student struggles and Sanrizuka protests with remarkable dedication and commitment, highlighting the major political and social upheavals in Japan at that time. They strived for collective decision-making and achieved an unusual level of connection and empathy with the people they filmed.

Proud of their independence, Ogawa Pro’s aim was not only to find new ways to fund and produce their work, but also to distribute and exhibit their films to alternative audiences. The ICA’s season will focus on their films over three decades, raising timely questions about radical documentary practice, and the nature of independent, political filmmaking.

The university students’ struggles chronicled by Ogawa Pro were the culmination of over a decade of protests, social dissent and political unrest. Together with the filmmakers of the recently formed collective Jieiso, Ogawa Shinsuke joined a group of students barricading themselves in the Takasaki City University of Economics.

The result was a fascinating film shot over a year showing the nature of the fierce debates among the students and their struggle against the authorities. *Forest of Oppression* (1967) was a call to arms, a galvanising film that turned out to be immensely popular amongst students all over Japan. Following on from the documentation of the student protest movement, Ogawa Pro moved to the fields of Sanrizuka, near Tokyo.


The experience gave Ogawa Pro a deep empathy towards the villagers and their stories in films like *Sanrizuka: Heta Village* (1973), a meditation on the modern peasant and the culmination of years of documentary filmmaking.

The collective then moved to the village of Magino in 1974 where they would live for the next decade, filming village life. Films like “*Nippon*: Furuyashiki Village” (1982), *The Sundial Carved with a Thousand Years of Notches – The Magino Village Story* (1986) took many years to craft, capturing the slow passing of time and the complex layers of past and present ruling the communal life of the village.

The ICA’s Ogawa Shinsuke season offers a rare opportunity to discover one of the most important bodies of work in documentary cinema. Complementing the programme will be two films about the Ogawa Pro collective *Filmmaking and the Way to the Village* (1973) by Fukuda Katsuhiko, and *Devotion: A film about the Ogawa Productions* (2000) by Barbara Hammer a film about the complex dynamics within the group including interviews with Oshima Nagisa, Robert Kramer, Hara Kazuo.

The programme includes the European premiere of *The Wages of Resistance - The Narita Stories* (2014) directed by the veteran Otsu Koshiro (who shot Summer in Sanrizuka) and editor Daishima Haruhiko who revisit the Sanrizuka fields and the people left behind many years after the original documentary.

The author of a leading book on Ogawa, *Forest of Pressure: Ogawa Shinsuke and Postwar...*
Japanese Documentary, Markus Nornes, will join us mid-way through the season to discuss the work and the concepts behind the documentaries of Ogawa.

“Ogawa Pro’s films resonate with incredible force and reflect the times we live in. This film season is an opportunity to see some rarely seen and outstanding works in their original formats and learn how documentary practice can really ignite social change”

-Nico Marzano, ICA Cinema & Film Programme Manager

The ICA Film Programme promotes the best radical, contemporary European and Worldwide art house cinema.

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1. Thu 17 November, 8.15pm Cinema 1
Forest of Oppression - A Record of the Struggle at Takasaki City University of Economics
Japan 1967, b/w, 16mm, 105 min., Japanese with English subtitles.

2. Sat 19 November, 3pm Cinema 1
The Battle Front for the Liberation of Japan - Summer in Narita
Japan 1968, b/w, 16mm, 108 min., Japanese with English subs +
Sanrizuka - The Three Day War
Japan 1970, b/w, 16mm, 50 min., Japanese with English subs

3. Tue 22 November, 8.15pm Cinema 1
Sanrizuka - Peasants of the Second Fortress
Japan 1971, b/w, 16mm, 143 min., Japanese with English subs

4. Thu 24 November, 8.15pm Cinema 1
The Wages of Resistance: The Narita Stories by Otsu Koshiro and Daishima Haruhiko
European Premiere, Japan, 2015, DCP, 140 min., Japanese with English subs.

5. Sat 26 Nov, 3.30pm Cinema 1
Heta Village: Rending Village Time | A lecture by Markus Nornes
+ Sanrizuka - Heta Village
Japan 1973, b/w, 16mm, 146 min., Japanese with English subs

6. Sun 27 Nov 4pm Cinema 1
Filmmaking and the Way to the Village by Fukuda Katsuhiko
Japan 1973, b/w, 16mm, 54 min, Japanese with English subtitles
+ Devotion: A Film About the Ogawa Productions by Barbara Hammer5
Japan/USA 2000, colour, video, 84 minutes.

7. Wed 30 Nov 8.30pm Cinema 1
Dokkoi! Songs from the Bottom
Japan 1975, b/w, 16mm, 121', Japanese with English subtitles

8. Sat 10 Dec, 2.30pm Cinema 1
“Nippon”: Furuyashiki Village
Director/Shinsuke OGAWA Photography/Masaki Tamura
Japan 1982, colour, 16mm, 210 min. English subtitles

9. Sun 11 Dec, 2.30pm Cinema 1 Closing Event
The Sundial Carved with a Thousand Years of Notches – The Magino Village Story
Japan 1986, color, 16mm, 222 min. Japanese with English subtitles
For further press information and images, please contact:
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Ticket prices:
Regular film screenings: £11 / £9 Concessions / £7 ICA Members
Booking fees for non ICA Members: £1 per ticket or maximum charge per transaction £2.80
Book online at ica.org.uk Call Box Office 020 7930 3647 Textphone 020 7839 0737

Full Annual Membership available from £30
Students and under-26s can join Annual Membership from £10

Further information on Annual and Day Membership can be found here.

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Editor’s notes

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About the ICA
Founded in 1946, the ICA seeks to embrace the urgency surrounding contemporary art and culture. Continually looking forward, the ICA lays claim to an extraordinary legacy, being home to the Independent Group, as well as playing a pivotal role in the development of Pop Art, Op Art and Brutalist Architecture. It charted the course of Punk, Performance, Independent Cinema and Young British Art, while showcasing numerous international artists, from Yoko Ono to Gerhard Richter. The ICA has always supported interdisciplinary practice, encouraging artists to experiment and explore unresolved ideas. Comprising film screenings, exhibitions, talks and events, the ICA Programme can be experienced at our base on The Mall, via our website and social media, or as ‘Off-Site’ projects at alternative venues, nationally and internationally. ica.org.uk

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