

## MADE IN JAPAN

07 October 2016 > 08 November 2016  
Cultural Centre Strombeek



The exhibition *Made in Japan* returns to period in the history of art that started at the end of the 1950s. At that time in Japan a strong avant-garde movement emerged that shared a lot with those in Europe and the US. The Japanese avant-garde was strongly linked to the trauma of the war and the subsequent occupation of the country by the US. It was a time of drastic cultural and social change: Japan was disarmed, the empire was abolished and by the end of the 1950s there was an unprecedented economic growth—Japan was on its way to become an economic superpower.

To express these changes, in the 1950s an anti-art movement emerged that broke with tradition and chose freedom and experiment.

These avant-garde artists opposed the canonical forms of art and wrested freedom from the existing system. Their art was innovative and iconoclastic. They had a predilection for performance art, in which the directness of their own body functioned as an ‘antidote’ to the object-as-commodity and acted counter to regulations and speculation. Other favourite media were magazines and manifestos, which played an important part in breaking the movement’s isolation and reaching out internationally. Artists experimented with new, contemporary media, such as film and video, and numerous avant-garde artists took to the streets for lack of infrastructure: they organised guerrilla actions and outdoor exhibitions, or went in search of independent forums, such as the Nippon and Yomiuri exhibitions, where the young generation could give free rein to its youthful energy.

There are in other words strong parallels with the avant-garde in Europe and the US, which was the focus of past exhibitions organized by Museumcultuur Strombeek/Ghent.

*Made in Japan* combines works from the collection of the S.M.A.K. with exceptional loans from various private and public collections. Together they constitute the point of departure for a modest presentation that is intended to chart the artistic lines from this era, as well as the exchange between East and West (with a special focus on the relation between Gutai and the Zero movement).

Four artists transpose the exhibition in the ‘now’ with new work: the Brussels artist Philippe Van Snick (1946), the artists’ duo Lemm&Barkey (Lot Lemm and Grace Ellen Barkey), the Japanese artist Rumiko Hagiwara (b. 1979), who now lives in Amsterdam, and the Japanese-Dutch artist Keiko Sato (b. 1957).

List of artists: John Cage, Enrico Castellani, François Curlet, Lucio Fontana, Rumiko Hagiwara, Sadahuru Horio, Akira Kanayama, On Kawara, Yves Klein, Tetsumi Kudo, Lemm&Barkey, Tsuyoshi Maekawa, Takesada Matsutani, Jonas Mekas, Yuko Nasaka, Sankichiro Nasaka, Hermann Maier Neustadt, Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik, Keiko Sato, Jan Schoonhoven, Shozo Shimamoto, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Ryuji Tanaka, Richard Tuttle, Günther Uecker, Yurie Umamoto, Paul Van Hoeydonck, Philippe Van Snick, Jef Verheyen, Miki Yamamoto, Jiro Yoshihara

### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The exhibition *Made in Japan* takes place in Cultural Centre Strombeek from 7 October to 8 November 2016. It is open daily and admission is free. Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Rumiko Hagiwara has created new work in the Botanic Garden of Meise, open daily from 9.30 am. ([www.br.fgov.be](http://www.br.fgov.be))

### **PRESS CONTACT**

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