

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2011



# For My Crushed Right Eye: The Visionary Films of Toshio Matsumoto

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:

One of the great pioneers of Sixties counter-cinema, Japanese director, video artist and critic Toshio Matsumoto (b. 1932) rose to prominence as a daring stylist and fearless provocateur whose radically experimental films shattered social and aesthetic taboos with inspired precision and energy. Matsumoto began as a documentary filmmaker, directing a series of abstract and subtly political shorts that applied a mode of poetic anthropology to postwar society and culture. Among Matsumoto's earliest works were two important collaborations with fellow member of the Jikken-Kobo artist collective, the legendary composer Toru Takemitsu who contributed some of his earliest scores to Matsumoto's lyrical documentaries *Ginrin* and *Song of the Stone*. An influential critic and theorist, Matsumoto increasingly embraced formal experimentation, culminating in his dazzling three projector film, *For My Crushed Right Eye* and his incendiary feature film debut, *Funeral Parade of Roses*, one of the most important films produced by the remarkable independent distribution and production company Art Theater Guild. Making prominent use of music and mandala-like formal structures, Matsumoto's deeply immersive and frequently psychedelic avant-garde films are trance inducing and quietly intense adventures in perception.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 PM

### ***Funeral Parade of Roses* (Bara no sosetsu)**

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. With Pita, Osamu Ogasawara, Toyosaburo Uchiyama, Japan 1969, 35mm, b/w, 105 min.*

*Featuring film historian and curator Go Hirasawa*

A carnivalesque melding of documentary verité and avant-garde psychedelia, *Funeral Parade of Roses* offers a shocking and ecstatic journey through the nocturnal underworld of Tokyo's Shinjuku neighborhood, following the strange misadventures of a rebellious drag queen fending off his/her rivals. Often cited as a major inspiration for Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, Matsumoto's breakthrough film is a visually audacious and lyrically abstract testament to the vertiginous daring of the postwar Japanese avant-garde art and film scenes. Matsumoto orchestrates a series of quite astonishing visual set pieces, including actual performances by the influential Fluxus-inspired street theater groups, the Zero Jigen and Genpei Akasegawa.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 PM

### Short Films

*Featuring film historian and curator Go Hirasawa*

### ***For My Crushed Right Eye* (Tsuburekakatta migime no tame ni)**

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1969, 16mm for three projectors, color, 13 min.*

### ***Silver Wheel* (Ginrin)**

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1955, 35mm, b/w, 12 min.*

### ***Song of the Stone* (Ishi no Uta)**

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1963, 16mm, b/w, 24 min.*

### ***Ecstasis***

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1969, 16mm, b/w, 11 min.*

### ***Atman***

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1975, 16mm, color, 12 min.*

### ***Everything Visible Is Empty* (Shiki soku ze ku)**

*Directed by Toshio Matsumoto. Japan 1975, 16mm, color, 8 min.*

*Special thanks: Andrew Gordon, Ted Gilman, Stacie Matsumoto, Reischauer Institute; Go Hirasawa, Meiji-Gakuin University; Yuriko Furubata, McGill University, and Diane Wei Lewis, Harvard University. This program is co-presented with the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University.*

## THE HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

24 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA

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<http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa>

## TICKETS

\$9 General Admission; \$7 Non-Harvard students, Harvard staff and seniors; Harvard students free. Special ticket events: \$12.

The HFA does not sell advance tickets. Tickets go on sale at the HFA box office 45 minutes prior to showtime.