

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SPRING 2024

Graduate Student Focus



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

12:30-2pm PST
SOS 250

ANNE FRIEDBERG MEMORIAL LECTURE:
Reframing "Punk" Cinema and Visual Culture in Late 1970s-1980s Japan: Gender, Documentary, Ephemerality

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Scholarship and criticism about the intersections of cinema and punk culture in late 1970s–early 1980s Japan are sparse, yet what does exist tends to place heavy emphasis on “DIY” independent filmmaking (*jishu eiga*) and the visceral works of director Ishii Sōgo (now Ishii Gakuryū). This talk attempts to widen the scope of analysis by examining other figures and content circulating in this context. Focusing on women participating in punk-adjacent image-making and performance and documentary films capturing the various punk scenes active at the time, it demonstrates the existence of a diversity of authors and modes of expression that media and subcultural histories of Japan as well as international curatorial efforts tend to overlook. Taking a cross-media approach that incorporates cinema, music, photography, manga, and zines (*minikomi*), Seuffert identifies a vibrant—if at times ephemeral—archive of images in the spaces where “punk” media, performance, and lifestyles coalesce.

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Image Credit: *Chotto no ame nara gaman* (*Never Mind a Little Rain*, 1983, 8 mm), directed by Yasuda Junji

