

Mediating Urban Space:



Yamaguchi Katsuhiko, Photograph from *LIBER LIBER*, 1975
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1970s Tokyo through Video Hiroba's Lens

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In 1960s Japan, the concurrent rapid urbanization and proliferation of mass media forms collude to forge a conceptual link between urban space and media space. Urban space thus becomes both the subject of mass media and the site in which media proliferates. While hardly the only artists to deal with the problematic power structures this confluence entails, the artists of the early 1970s collective Video Hiroba look to video as a means of troubling the easy association of mass media and urban space. This talk will discuss how works by key members of this Tokyo-based collective used video to mediate urban space based on their own ties to contemporaneous art and media discourses. In tracing how the possible meanings of the nascent video medium were negotiated within this urban collective, I hope to delineate an approach through which artists began to envision public space under the growing influence of the *kanri shakai*.

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This lecture is organized by Professor Michio Hayashi (FLA)

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