

## Shuzo Azuchi Gulliver

### Biography

Shuzo Azuchi Gulliver (real name: Shuzo Azuchi) was born in 1947 in what is now Otsu, Shiga Prefecture. (Japan)  
Mainly lives in Tokyo.

He first became involved in artistic activities such as Happenings as a high school student, and while enrolled in the Philosophy Department at his university, was greatly influenced by a published collection of Marcel Duchamp's works.

After moving to Tokyo in 1967 and presenting a series of experimental films which combined what was on the screen with what was outside it, in 1973, Gulliver embarked on one of his most important works, '*Body Contract*'. In this pivotal piece in the artist's career, Gulliver divided his body up into 80 parts and through the use of an executive committee entrusted the custody of each to 80 people following his death. In 1984, Gulliver staged '*De-Story*', a 240-hour performance work involving a structure comprised of three cuboids, each of which corresponded to the volume of space required for him to "*stand*," "*sit*," and "*lie*." Then in the 90s, having developed an interest in the idea that every living thing is ruled by various combinations of the four bases (adenine, thymine, cytosine, guanine) of the DNA structure, Gulliver began devoting himself to work that made use of the initials of these components, ATCG. On the other hand, in recent years, Gulliver has continued to develop the '*Ex-Sign*' series based on an interest in "shapes" and "marks" that dates back to the 1970s.

Although Gulliver's works, as a reflection of his broad interests, comprise an extremely diverse range of media, including drawings, installations, and performances, all of them raise unique questions regarding existence and the self, avoid any obvious or preexisting framework, and adopt a consistently challenging attitude to fundamental issues.

While these activities hold a unique position in post-war art, a large number of the work is still unreleased, leaving his countenance in mystery.

## Short Curriculum Vitae

- 2023 *SHUZO AZUCHI GULLIVER: 'Synogenesis'*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2022 *'Breath-Amorphous'* BankART, Yokohama
- 2020 *'Cinematic Illumination'* Museum of Modern Art, New York  
*'Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions 2020: The Imagination of Time'*,  
Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo
- 2019 *'Note to note'* Spaziodanseei, Oligiate Olona (Italy)
- 2018 *'On a bien accroché'* (with Marc Buchy) Maison Grégoire, Brussels
- 2017 *'Japanese Expanded Cinema Revisited'* Tokyo photographic Museum, Tokyo
- 2016 *'Sange/Letters from the World (petali che cadono)'* Spaziotemporaneo, Milano
- 2015 *'La dolce vita (1999/2015)'* Neue Kunstverein Wuppertal, Wuppertal (Germany)
- 2014 Begins *"Sound gift,"* a project to counteract *"BODY"* project, where ever single sound pronounced until death is presented as a gift.  
*'SHI'* (with Yuki Okumura) Etablissement d'en face project, Brussels
- 2012 *'From/To Sri Lanka'* Sakado station, Sakato (Japan)
- 2011 *'One night exhibition in the Dream'*
- 2010 Holds comprehensive one-man exhibition *"EX-SIGN"*
- 2009 *'Shuzo Azuchi Gulliver'* Dieci.Due Arte, Milano
- 2004 *'Tai-i (Paradigm)'* Kyoto Seika University Gallery Fleur, Kyoto
- 2003 Lecture *'Il fascino indiscreto del denaro'* at Aura Magna dell'Ateneo Veneto, Venezia  
*'Zero/Concept'* (Art affairs, Amsterdam)
- 2000 Researcher, Tokyo University Research into Artifacts, Center for Engineering.
- 1999 Lecture and speech *'The ancient human being and the modern artist: The sense of drawing'* Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano, Milano
- 1998 *'Ex-self'* Mizuma art Gallery, Tokyo
- 1997 *'Fukui Biennale 7: Media and Human body'* Fukui City Art Museum, Fukui (Japan)
- 1996 *'Art Meets'* Charlottenborg (Copenhagen)  
*'Garden Project'* Aalsmeer (The Netherlands) Commissioned by City Aalsmeer,  
Provincie Noord-Holland and Mondrian foundation
- 1994 *'Of the human condition'* Spiral art center, Tokyo
- 1993 *'Shuzo Azuchi Gulliver'* Unimedia, Genova
- 1992 *'Brain-Internal Affairs'* Beatrixziekenhuis, Gorinchem (The Netherlands)  
*'Avanguardie Giapponesi Degli anni 70'* Galleria comunale d'Arte moderna Bologna,  
toured to Setagaya Museum, Tokyo
- 1991 *'Body'* Dieci.Due! Milano
- 1990 Activity in Europe increases.
- 1984 Lecture *'Paik opera (dedicated to Nam Jun Paik)'* Nagoya art forum, Nagoya  
*'De-story'* (240 hours performance ) Az corporation, Tokyo
- 1977-78 Organize *'Yoyogi opened studio'* Tokyo
- 1973 Begins the exemplary *"BODY"* project, where the body is divided into 80 parts after death and entrust the parts to 80 specic people through a specic executive group.

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- 1967 Forms “PLAY” group with acquaintances from Kansai to oppose “Gutai group” Late-60s. Produces experimental cinematographs, networks with Japanese members of Fluxus.
- 1967 Makes headlines as one of the leaders representing Japanese “futen,” or hippie.
- 1964 Begins working on subjective works such as the performance ( ‘Happening’ ). Befriends American beatniks visiting Kyoto, studying philosophy at University.

## Museum and Public Collections

Shiga Museum Art (Shiga, Japan)  
The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (Kyoto)  
Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (Tokyo)  
Museum of Modern Art (New York)  
Kyoto Seika University (Kyoto)  
Shiga Prefectural ZEZE High School (Shiga, Japan)  
Haverford College (Haverford, USA)