

MEGUMI KITAHARA

““Japanese” Artist, TANIGUCHI Fumie (1910-2001) : What is “Trans-” for Her?”

Abstract:

Fumie Taniguchi was a female painter in the Japanese style who garnered the attention of the art establishment in the 1930s with her modern depictions of the female form, and became one of the leading figure in the government-sponsored Women Artists Service Corps during the Second World War. After Japan’s surrender, however, she sought a new venue for her activities, eventually emigrating to the United States in 1955, where she lived for over half her life until her death in Los Angeles in 2001. Virtually none of her work from this period survives, nor is there any record of it. Instead, Taniguchi turned to writing, transforming her prewar activities as a painter, her marriage and motherhood, and her life working in a garment factory in Los Angeles into stories and essays, which she contributed to the Japanese-American literary journal *Nanka Bungei*. She published these works throughout the 1960s and 70s, a period during which Yoko Ono, Yayoi Kusama, and Mako Idemitsu were exploring their own avenues of artistic expression in the United States.

This presentation will consider what “trans” meant for Fumie Taniguchi, exposed as she was to the patriarchal gaze of society even within the Japanese-American community.

Representative works:

Kitahara, Megumi. *Art Activism, vol.1* (Impact Shuppan-kai, 1999)

Kitahara, Megumi. *Kakuran-bunshi @ Kyokai: Art Activism* (Impact Shuppan-kai, 2000)

Kitahara, Megumi (ed.) *How have Women's Bodies Been Represented?: The Visual Representation and War Memories* (Seikyusha, 2013)

<http://www.genderart.jp/>