

**Midori Yoshimoto**

**Fluxus Nexus: Japanese Women Artists and Fluxus**

Fluxus presents a remarkable model of an early transnational artistic movement that drew simultaneously from currents in the United States, Europe and Japan. Remarkably, Fluxus embraced many Japanese artists, including Kuniharu Akiyama, Ay-O, Toshi Ichihara, Takehisa Kosugi, Shigeko Kubota, Yoko Ono, Takako Saito, Mieko Shiomi, Yasunao Tone and Yoshimasa Wada. By means of frequent travel and regular correspondence, these artists linked vanguard communities in Tokyo and New York, infusing Fluxus concepts and events with the latest artistic developments from Japan.

Most of the literature on Fluxus focuses on the movement's American and European adherents, barely acknowledging the contributions of Japanese artists. I will now focus on the four Japanese women artists—Kubota, Ono, Saito and Shiomi, and discuss the catalytic role they played in this trans-Pacific artistic exchange. Simultaneously, I will explore some of the gender issues that have affected the reception of these artists in the global context.