



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 12

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WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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A snake of June – Shin'ya Tsukamoto

Shin'ya Tsukamoto, who has already been a guest of honor for the previous edition of the festival, will virtually come back to Venice this year, in order to premiere the Italian release, with the publishing house Marsilio, of the novel *A Snake of June* through an interview conducted by **Francesco Vitucci**, translator of the book and professor at Bologna University. Based on the film of the same name released in 2002, it is a novel about violence and compassion, a thriller of contrasting drives in which the bashful Rinko will be led to rediscover her own sexuality. During the meeting, Tsukamoto will recount his writing career – which might be less well-known but interesting no less – and how it relates to his cinema, allowing the audience to get into the author's creative process applied to different fields of artistic expression.

Shin'ya Tsukamoto was born in Tokyo in 1960 and produced his first short films at the age of 14. His visionary and *cyberpunk* cinema is expressed in all its might with images that manifest the struggle of mankind which, not to be swallowed up by the urban setting, fights up to making violence on its own body to define it. After having started the "Kaiju Theater" theater company and having produced interesting short films, he immediately reached international popularity thanks to his full-length film debut, the cult film *Tetsuo* (1989), which was followed by other works such as *Tokyo Fist* (1995), *Vital* (2004), *Kotoko* (2011), up to his most recent film, *Killing* (2018). Director, screenwriter, editor and also actor – both in his own films and in other people's, for example *Silence* by Scorsese –, he has attended the most important international festivals and has been one of the constant presences at Venice International Film Festival, where he won the Special Jury Prize in the "Controcorrente" section with *A Snake of June*, and the The Orizzonti Award for Best Film with *Kotoko*.

A SNAKE OF JUNE by Shin'ya TSUKAMOTO (translated in Italian by Francesco Vitucci, Marsilio, 2022)

A Serpent of June by Tsukamoto Shin'ya is a novel about violence and compassion, a thriller of contrasting drives that rewrites the concept of morals through three voices, each one bearer of an unsettling truth. In a Japanese metropolis struck by the monsoon, Rinko, a coy consultant of a hotline focused on psychological disorders, leads an unfulfilling existence, confined to a sexless life with her husband Shigehiko. It will be an envelope containing some unseemly photos to trigger the sequence of events: one of her patients intends to blackmail her in order to persuade her to unleash sexual fantasies that she will find out to have. After losing any inhibition, Rinko understands that her persecutor, a middle-aged photographer with the shadow of an illness looming over, is trying to save her from mortal danger. When

Shigehiko finds out about the photos, the photographer punishes him for his lack of attention towards his wife.