

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## NUDE DESCENDING A STAIRCASE

VIDEO WORK BY SHIGEKO KUBOTA AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Nude Descending a Staircase, a video tribute to the work of Marcel Duchamp, will be on view through April 29 at The Museum of Modern Art as part of the Museum's continuing PROJECTS series exploring recent developments in contemporary art.

Directly related to Duchamp's famous 1912 painting that became the succes de scandale of the 1913 Armory Show in New York, Kubota's Nude Descending a Staircase uses a synthesizer to abstract and colorize on videotape the repeated image of a descending nude. These tapes are played on four monitors that have been set into the risers of a staircase (constructed by Al Robbins). "Kubota contrasts the continuous action, composed of bold, synthetic video colors, with a finite structure made of simple, unobtrusive plywood," notes Barbara London, Curatorial Assistant, who directed PROJECTS: SHIGEKO KUBOTA.

After graduation from the Tokyo University of Education in 1960, Shigeko Kubota came to New York and began working with Fluxus artists George Maciunas, Allan Kaprow, Ay-O, and Nam June Paik. Through their joint activities, concentrated in performance and bookworks, Fluxus followed the example set earlier by Marcel Duchamp of demythologizing the artists and of breaking down the categorizations of twentieth century art.

Influenced by the musician John Cage, Fluxus artists dealt with time as a structural element of their performance/music work. In 1970

