

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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Contact:
Luisa Kreisberg (212) 956-2648
Bruce Wolmer (212) 956-7295

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

Shigeko Kubota published Marcel Duchamp and John Cage, a photographic book documenting the 1968 "Reunion" performance of Marcel and Teeny Duchamp, John Cage, David Tudor, Gordon Mumma, David Behrman, and Lowell Cross, at the Reyerson Theatre in Toronto.

Shigeko Kubota's involvement with video began in the early seventies when she participated in the "First Annual New York Video Festival" at The Kitchen in 1972. Her videotape and video sculptures have been shown internationally in the last year at Documenta 6 in Kassel, West Germany; Museo de Carrillo Gil, Mexico City; and Japan House Gallery, New York. She has been Video Curator of the Anthology Film Archives in New York since 1974.

The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition program is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency whose funds are recommended by the Governor and appropriated by the State Legislature.

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