

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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ROOM TEMPERATURE, A VIDEO INSTALLATION,  
OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Department of  
Public Information  
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In ROOM TEMPERATURE, which will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 23 through December 2, California artist Terry Fox explores time, energy, and "mass media." The work consists of two continuously playing videotapes, a radio tuned to the all-news station WINS, and an effigy of recent newspapers wearing the artist's clothes. One tape, titled Four Dumplings, has been shot with two cameras. On it we see the artist mixing flour and potatoes, then reading a newspaper story while a nearby television spews out commercials and a string of adjectives travels across the video screen. Imagery on the second tape, Shirt Passes, consists solely of a shirt that is moved across a wooden floor.

Terry Fox, born in Seattle in 1943, began his artistic career in California as a painter. He left "object-oriented" art so that he could control all aspects of his work, including the environment in which it is shown, and have more direct contact with his public. In 1969 Fox began creating works composed of live actions that deal with sound, using ordinary materials to explore simple phenomena, often over extended periods of time. He performed many of these small-scale works by himself or with another artist, musician, or street person in unusual outdoor places and abandoned buildings as well as in galleries and museums. In addition to these

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performances, he has created video projects and environmental installations such as ROOM TEMPERATURE. His aim, he says, is to create intimate spatial environments that focus on process and perception and that integrate existing with created sounds.

ROOM TEMPERATURE has been funded by grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The exhibition has been directed by Barbara London of The Museum of Modern Art's PROJECTS: VIDEO program.

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