

For Immediate Release
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**AN ONLINE CHRONICLE:
MoMA CURATOR TRAVELS JAPAN
IN SEARCH OF INNOVATIVE USES OF THE INTERNET
AND OTHER MEDIA ARTS**

***dot.jp: A Curator's Japan Diary*
Launches in November on MoMA Web Site www.moma.org**

In November, The Museum of Modern Art launches *dot.jp: A Curator's Japan Diary*, the third in a continuing series of online examinations of new media art around the world. Posted on the Internet in the form of daily dispatches from Japan, the project examines the ways in which Japanese artists are developing innovative uses of the Internet and other new media art forms. Barbara London, Associate Curator, Department of Film and Video, will travel throughout Japan, meeting with established and up-and-coming artists, and will document her findings on the Museum's Web site at www.moma.org/dot.jp.

"The artists of Japan, keeping pace with recent trends, have become enamored of media art, which they term 'technology art,'" notes Ms. London. "In a country known for innovative applications of technology, the use of newly available digital tools centered on the computer promises to be inventive."

Ms. London will spend four weeks touring studios of media artists in the major population centers of Tokyo and the Kansai area (encompassing the cities of Osaka, Kyoto, and Kobe) and in more out-of-the-way locales, such as Gifu and Kyushu. She will

file interviews daily, along with video clips and photos of recent works. Among the artists she plans to meet are musician/performance artist Ryuichi Sakamoto; multimedia artist Mariko Mori; filmmaker Shinya Tsukamoto (*Iron Man*); Maywa Denki, a duo that plays acoustic (analog) instruments made out of remaindered electronic parts; and the performance group Dumb Type, who fuse video, music, and installation in a critique of a modern technophile society dazed by information overload.

Stocked with the latest in portable digital equipment, London and her travelling partner, documentarian F. D. P. Henryz, are able to function as a full documentary crew—interviewing, recording, shooting video footage and still photographs, editing, producing, researching, and archiving—working out of a single knapsack. In the field during the day they videotape (using a Sony camcorder DCR-TRV10) and photograph (using a Sony digital still camera DSC-F55), record sound interviews (with a Sony DAT TCD-D100), and capture video clips (on an IBM notebook computer Thinkpad 770ED). At night they process the accumulated material on the notebook computer using editing software to process for sound, video, and digital still materials, as well as another program that compresses video and audio clips into a “streaming” format.

The dispatch, on average 15 megabytes, is burned onto a CD-ROM, which a local contact uses to transmit the data to New York via FTP (File Transfer Protocol) on a computer connected to a high-speed data line. On the receiving end, Matt Owens and Warren Corbitt of graphics studio One9ine transform the dispatches into Web pages, and post them on the MoMA Web site, www.moma.org/dot.jp.

A preliminary view of the project will be accessible on November 4, 1999. London’s first dispatch from Japan will be posted in the second week of November.

Visitors to the Museum may browse the dispatches at several kiosks in the Museum's CAFÉ/ETC., opening in November. Along with the kiosks, monitors in the café will display a selection of videotapes from the Museum's extensive collection that highlight the early days of Japanese video. Also featured is an original Sony "Portapak," the first portable edition of a video camera, whose invention in the mid-1960s allowed for radical new forms of video art.

dot.jp is the third project in an ongoing Internet series that chronicles digital art. *Stir-fry* (www.moma.org/stir-fry), London's 1997 dispatches from China, records meetings with artists "unsanctioned" by the Chinese government. *InterNyet* (www.moma.org/internyet), is an account of London's 1998 journey into the underground art world of Russia and Ukraine.

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For more information on *dot.jp: A Curator's Japan Diary*, please contact Harris Dew, Senior Publicist for Film and Video, at 212/708-9847 or by e-mail at harris_dew@moma.org.