

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1989

THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION

April 20 - May 30, 1989

Opening at The Museum of Modern Art on April 20, 1989, THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION is the first exhibition of its kind to examine television as a forum for the contemporary arts. This international survey of videotapes by sixty-seven artists is presented in weekly thematic programs: dance, music, theater, literature, video imaging, and experimental television (schedule attached). The exhibition is on view through May 30 in the Edward John Noble Education Center.

Created between 1966 and 1987, the videos represented in the exhibition are examples of alternative programming produced specially for television. These include American productions from WGBH-TV, Boston; WNET-TV, New York; and KTCA-TV, San Francisco; and programs from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, and Yugoslavia. Tapes range in length from three minutes to over an hour.

In Dance For Television (April 20 - 25), nine tapes demonstrate the use of television's abstract space. Included are works by choreographers Trisha Brown, James Byrne, Merce Cunningham, and Mary Lucier, among others. Music For Television (April 27 - May 2) presents sixteen works by such videomakers as Laurie Anderson, Robert Ashley, Kit Fitzgerald, and Robert Longo, who examine music as a means to liberate the image from narrative constraint.

In Theater For Television (May 4 - 9), producers Magazzini Criminali, The Wooster Group, and Robert Wilson challenge the traditional rules of drama and stage production by experimenting with the medium of video. Among the seven

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works included are Samuel Beckett's He Joe (1966) and Wilson's Deafman Glance (1981). In Literature For Television (May 11 - 16), Ivo Andric, Joan Jonas, and Ed Rankus are among those artists who explore ways in which television and the written word can be integrated.

The Video Image (May 18 - 23) presents eleven tapes and features Bill Viola's Chott el-Djerid (A Portrait in Light and Heat) (1979), a recording of how the electronic eye reacts to extreme heat and extreme light. Not Necessarily Television (May 25 - 30) consists of fifteen works, including Martha Rosler's If It's Too Bad to be True, It Could be Disinformation (1985), examining television news broadcasts. Other artists represented in this section include Nam June Paik, Ilene Segalove, and Richard Serra.

THE ARTS FOR TELEVISION was coorganized by Dorine Mignot, curator, Department of Painting, Sculpture, and Video Art, the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and Kathy Rae Huffman, curator/producer, Contemporary Art Television (CAT) Fund, Boston; with the participation of Julie Lazar, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. The exhibition was organized for The Museum of Modern Art by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film.

This exhibition is funded in part by a grant from The Polaroid Corporation on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. The Museum's video programs are made possible by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and are also supported by the Sony Corporation of America.

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For further information or video stills, contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

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Viewing Schedule

DANCE FOR TELEVISION

April 20 - 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Merce by Merce by Paik (1975). Charles Atlas/Merce Cunningham/Nam June Paik/Shigeko Kubota. 30 minutes

Dancing on the Edge (1980-81). Trisha Brown. 29 minutes

Portrait (1983). Hans Van Manen. 10 minutes

Repetitions (1984). Marie Andre. 45 minutes

Ex-Romance (1984-87). Charles Atlas. 50 minutes

Visual Shuffle (1986). John Sanborn/Mary Perillo. 7 minutes

Lament (1985). James Byrne/Eiko & Koma. 9 minutes

If I Could Fly, I Would Fly (1987). Mary Lucier. 25 minutes

Waterproof (1986). Jean-Louis Le Tacon. 22 minutes

MUSIC FOR TELEVISION

April 27 - May 2 at 1:00 p.m.

O Superman (1981). Laurie Anderson. 9 minutes

Ear to the Ground (1982). John Sanborn/Kit Fitzgerald. 5 minutes

Rene and Georgette Magritte With Their Dog After the War (1984). Joan Logue. 4 minutes

To Sorrow (1984). Kit Fitzgerald. 5 minutes

Bizarre Love Triangle (1987). Robert Longo. 4 minutes

You Ain't Fresh (1986). Julia Hayward. 4 minutes

I Want Some Insecticide (1986). Brenda Miller. 4 minutes

Imagine (1987). Zbigniew Rybczynski. 3 minutes

Soul Soldier (1987). Charles Jevremovic/Lisa Montrose. 9 minutes

The Commission (1983). Woody Vasulka. 45 minutes

Music Word Fire and I Would Do It Again (The Lessons) (1981). Robert Ashley. 30 minutes

The Kiss (An Operatic Duet) (1984). Paul Richards/Michael Nyman. 9 minutes

As If Memories Could Deceive Me (1986). Marcel Odenbach. 18 minutes

The Flood (1985). Jaap Drupsteen. 25 minutes

Walzer (1985). Gabor Body. 3 minutes

Johnny (1985). Patrick De Geetere/Catherine Maes. 30 minutes

THEATER FOR TELEVISION
May 4 - 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Die Hamletmaschine (1983-84). Peter Henning/Werner Gerber. 52 minutes

Deafman Glance (1981). Robert Wilson. 27 minutes

Flaubert Dreams of Travel But The Illness of His Mother Prevents It (1986). Ken Kobland/Elizabeth LeCompte. 19 minutes

Crollo Nervoso (1981). Magazzini Criminali. 55 minutes

He Joe (1966). Samuel Beckett. 29 minutes

Tongues (1982). Shirley Clarke. 20 minutes

Prologo (1985). Giorgio Barberio Corsetti/Studio Azzurro. 25 minutes

LITERATURE FOR TELEVISION
May 11 - 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Double Lunar Dogs (1984). Joan Jonas. 25 minutes

URA ARU (The Backside Exists) (1986). Gary Hill. 29 minutes

Rianon (1984). Slobodan Pesic. 48 minutes

Danilo Kis (1985). Boris Miljkovic. 7 minutes

- The End of the Comedy (1986). Ivo Andric. 60 minutes
Pour Jean-Marc, Passe-Murailles (1984). Richard Kalisz. 30 minutes
Choses Vues: Voyage (1985). Jean-Paul Fargier. 7 minutes
A TV Dante - Canto V (1985). Peter Greenaway/Tom Phillips. 14 minutes
She Heard Voices (1986). Edward Rankus. 10 minutes

THE VIDEO IMAGE

May 18 - 23 at 1:00 p.m.

- Land Art (1969). Gerry Schum. 35 minutes
Chanoyu (1983). Sanja Ivekovic/Dalibor Martinis. 11 minutes
City of Angels (1983). Marina Abramovic/Ulay. 18 minutes
Chott el-Djerid (A Portrait in Light and Heat) (1979). Bill Viola.
28 minutes
Mt. Fuji (1984). Ko Nakajima. 20 minutes
Ecology: Ocean (1986). Yoichiro Kawaguchi. 6 minutes
Ronde de Nuit (1984). Jean-Claude Riga. 14 minutes
L'Image (1987). Jacques-Louis/Daniele Nyst. 42 minutes
EETC (1986). David Larcher. 69 minutes
The Meaning of the Interval (1987). Edin Velez. 19 minutes
The Damnation of Faust (1983-87). Dara Birnbaum. 21 minutes

NOT NECESSARILY TELEVISION

May 25 - 30 at 12:00 p.m.

- TV as a Fireplace (1968). Jan Dibbets. 24 minutes
Grimoire Magnetique (1982). Joelle de la Casiniere. 26 minutes
Kobold's Gesange (1986). Klaus Vom Bruch. 5 minutes
Technology/Transformation: Wonder Woman (1987). Dara Birnbaum. 7 minutes

If It's Too Bad To Be True, It Could Be DISINFORMATION (1985). Martha Rosler. 17 minutes

Great Mother (Sachiko) (1984). Mako Idemitsu. 19 minutes

More TV Stories: The Pastrami Sandwich and The Forbidden Channel (1985). Ilene Segalove. 5 minutes

The Games (Olympic Variations) (1984-86). Michel Auder. 25 minutes

Slogans (American) (1987). Antonio Muntadas. 8 minutes

Joan Does Dynasty (1986). Joan Braderman. 31 minutes

Death Valley Days (1985). Gorilla Tapes. 15 minutes

Shut The Fuck Up (1985). General Idea. 19 minutes

Killer (1986). Gusztav Hamos. 8 minutes

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