

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1992

NEW ACQUISITIONS, VIDEO: JOAN JONAS, NAM JUNE PAIK, AND WILLIAM WEGMAN

April 9 - July 16, 1992

An exhibition of twenty-three works by pioneer videomakers Joan Jonas, Nam June Paik, and William Wegman opens at The Museum of Modern Art on April 9, 1992. **NEW ACQUISITIONS, VIDEO: JOAN JONAS, NAM JUNE PAIK, AND WILLIAM WEGMAN** reflects these artists' spontaneous approaches to techniques of recording, editing, and special effects. The exhibition marks the Museum's recent acquisition of all the videotapes produced by these artists, the majority of which they donated. The exhibition is on view through July 16.

Trained in sculpture and dance, Joan Jonas's first videotapes are of live performances (*Vertical Roll*, 1972), in which she toys with visual distortions by creating a drifting image. Through her work she investigates female identity, storytelling, and the use of myths for cultural perpetuation (*I Want to Live in the Country*, 1976).

Video iconoclast Nam June Paik creates tapes of visually explosive, computer-processed images that examine traditional and popular culture, both Eastern and Western. *Global Groove* (1973), a precursor of Paik's later work, develops his idea of the existence of one world through global communications. His rapid-fire editing style and collage technique have influenced, as well as copied, the familiar vernacular of commercial television, especially sports events and music videos.

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William Wegman's videotapes are performance-based comedic sketches featuring the late Man Ray, his Weimaraner dog. Often recorded as single takes in real time and performed in front of a static camera, the tapes document absurdist anecdotes, droll monologues, and surreal sight gags. The exhibition includes *Selected Works: Reels 1-5 (1970-75)* and *Sesame Street Fay Ray Segments (1989)*, starring Man Ray's successor Fay Ray.

The Museum's Video Collection was begun in 1975 and has an international collection of about 700 independently produced videotapes. The Video Study Center is a reference library of exhibition catalogues, periodicals, and interviews documenting the history of video art.

NEW ACQUISITIONS, VIDEO: JOAN JONAS, NAM JUNE PAIK, AND WILLIAM WEGMAN was organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, video, Department of Film.

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No. 22

For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

67

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Exhibition Schedule

Program 1

Mondays, 12:00 p.m.

Joan Jonas. *Left Side Right Side*. 1972. 9 min.

Nam June Paik. *Global Groove*. 1973. 28 min.

William Wegman. *Spit Sandwich*. 1970. 16 min.

Program 2

Mondays, 2:00 p.m.; Fridays, 12:00 p.m.

Nam June Paik. *A Tribute to John Cage*. 1976. 29 min.

William Wegman. *Selected Works: Reel I*. 1970-72. 30 min.

Program 3

Mondays, 4:00 p.m.; Fridays, 2:00 p.m.

Nam June Paik. *Guadalcanal Requiem*. 1977 (reedited 1979). 28 min.

Joan Jonas. *Vertical Roll*. 1972. 19 min.

Program 4

Mondays, 12:00 p.m.; Fridays, 4:00 p.m.

William Wegman. *Selected Works: Reel 3*. 1973. 18 min.

Joan Jonas. *Organic Honey's Visual Telepathy*. 1972. 17 min.

Nam June Paik. *Merce and Marcel*. 1978. In collaboration with Shigeiko Kubota.
13 min.

Program 5

Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:00 p.m.

Nam June Paik. *Media Shuttle: Moscow/New York*. 1978. In collaboration with
Dimitri Devyatkin. 28 min.

Joan Jonas. *I Want to Live in the Country*. 1976. 24 min.

Program 6

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.

William Wegman. *Selected Works: Reel 4*. 1973-74. 21 min.

Joan Jonas. *Upsidedown and Backwards*. 1980. 29 min.

Nam June Paik. *Lake Placid '80*. 1980. 3 min.

Program 7

Thursdays 12:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.

William Wegman. *Selected Works: Reel 5*. 1974-75. 26 min.

Joan Jonas. *Glass Puzzle*. 1973. 17 min.

William Wegman. *Blue Monday*. 1988. In collaboration with Robert Breer. 4 min.

68

Program 8

Thursdays 2:00 p.m.; Sundays, 12:00 p.m.

Nam June Paik. *Good Morning Mr. Orwell*. 1984. 59 min.

Program 9

Thursdays 4:00 p.m.; Sundays, 2:00 p.m.

Nam June Paik. *Lake Placid '80*. 1980. 3 min.

Joan Jonas. *Double Lunar Dogs*. 1984. 24 min.

William Wegman. *Sesame Street Fay Ray Segments*. 1989. 10 min.

Nam June Paik. *Merce and Marcel*. 1978. In collaboration with Shigeo Kubota.
13 min.

Program 10

Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.; Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Joan Jonas. *Volcano Saga*. 1989. 28 min.

Nam June Paik. *Living with the Living Theater*. 1989. In collaboration with
Paul Garrin and Betsy Connors. 28 min.

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