

## The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
January 1986

### JAPANESE VIDEO WORKS TO OPEN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART JANUARY 16

NEW VIDEO: JAPAN, which includes 23 independently produced videotapes by 26 artists, will be featured at The Museum of Modern Art between Thursday, January 16 and March 2, 1986. The works in the exhibition, ranging in style from the lyrical to the analytical, will be shown in the Video Gallery, ground floor, as part of the ongoing CLOSE-UP OF JAPAN NEW YORK 1985-86 (complete listing attached). The videotapes address a variety of subjects, including themes related to vanishing cultural traditions, popular video games and music videos, and home movies and television.

For almost fifteen years independent video has been operating in Japan on the fringes of the broadcast television and cultural worlds, despite its vitality as an art form. Painters, sculptors, and printmakers started to experiment with video during the sixties, collaborating on projects that ranged from "fine arts" to political activism. In the early seventies, Japanese artists began establishing screening situations for their own work in contemporary art and experimental film and special video venues. Today Japanese videomakers continue to produce strong work, using consumer as well as industrial equipment. Video has become integral to contemporary Japanese life and reflects the traditions set by theater, radio, film, and photography in both the popular and the experimental arts.

All of the works in NEW VIDEO: JAPAN have been produced in the last four years. The videotapes promise Japanese video's continuing growth, because they express the country's technological sophistication and its unique ability to integrate art into daily life.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Mako Idemitsu will be present at the Museum for the series VIDEO VIEWPOINTS on Monday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Idemitsu will discuss "The Video Monitor as an Inner World."

-more-

-2-

NEW VIDEO: JAPAN has been organized by Barbara London, assistant curator of video in the Department of Film, as a sequel to the 1979 exhibition VIDEO FROM TOKYO TO FUKUI AND KYOTO. The exhibition has been co-organized with the American Federation of Arts. CLOSE-UP OF JAPAN NEW YORK 1985-86 also includes film and animation programs at the Japan Society and the Museum. Japanese feature films will be presented at the Japan Society through February 7, and during January the Museum will present two programs organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Department of Film. One program examines three contemporary masters of animation, Kihachiro Kawamoto, Yoji Kuri, and Osamu Tezuka, and the second, HIROSHIMA '85, features work from the Far East's first international animation festival, which was held last June in Hiroshima, Japan. Ms. Mancina organized the latter in collaboration with Charles Samu, manager of intermission programming at HBO.

NEW VIDEO: JAPAN received special funding from Mitsui Group, Japan-United States Friendship Commission, the Asian Cultural Council, and Sony Magnetic Products Company. The Museum's Video Program is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Sony Corporation of America.

After its presentation at the Museum, the videotapes in NEW VIDEO: JAPAN will be distributed by the American Federation of Arts.

A catalogue with an essay by Barbara London will accompany the exhibition and will be available at the Museum store.

No. 118

\*\*\*\*\*

For additional press information and photographic materials, including color transparencies, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art 212/708-9752

343

CLOSE-UP OF JAPAN NEW YORK 1985-86

NEW VIDEO: JAPAN

The Museum of Modern Art - Video Gallery, ground floor  
January 16 - March 2, 1986

VIDEOTAPES IN PROGRAM (alphabetically by videomaker):

Azuma, Shouichiro. Kuniyama-shiriji. 1985. 27 min.

Fujihata, Masaki. Maitreya. 1984. 3 min.

Furohashi, Teiji. Conversation Styles: Dumb Talk, Balance. 1984. 6 min.

Harada, Daizuburo and Shono, Haruhiko. Hard Scratch. 1984-85. T.V. Army. 1985. 5 min.

Idemitsu, Mako. Great Mother Part II: Yumiko. 1983-84.

Kawaguchi, Mao and Shino, Ayumi. 5.29 Ayumi Shino. 1984. 3 min.

Kawanaka, Nobuhiro. Spinning Time. 1983. 10 min.

Kushiyama, Kumiko. House in Oikoshi. 1984. 5 min.

Matsumoto, Akira. A Lakeside Event -- Handicapped Year '81 Summer Camp. 1981. 30 min.

Mizuno, Tetsuo. !? et ?. 1984. 8 min.

Nagata, Osamu. MiNaMi (South Wind). 1984. 9 min.

Nakajima, Ko. Mt. Fuji. 1985. 20 min.

Noda, Kunio. Scale. 1983. 5 min.

Okazaki, Jun and Segawa, Emi. Faster than the Wind. 1983. 20 min.

Okuda, Noriyuki. Obsolete Theater. 1982. 18 min.

Saito, Makoto. A-R-K. 1984. 5 min.

Taka, Katsuya. Deno. 1985. 2 min.

Tanikawa, Shuntaro and Terayama, Shuji. Video Letter. 1982-83. 75 min.

Terai, Hironori. Ordinary Life. 1985.

Tosa, Naoko. An Expression. 1985. 9 min.

Wada, Morihiro. The Recognition Construction XIII. 1984. 20 min.

Yamamoto, Keigo. Human Body Energy No. 3. 1984. 4 min.