

The Museum of Modern Art

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11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

Silently meandering about The Museum of Modern Art's Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden is a large self-propelled sculpture, Osaka I, designed by Robert Breer. The work was executed as part of the EAT (Experiments in Art and Technology) project at the Pepsi-Cola Pavilion at the 1970 World's Fair in Osaka, Japan. It is one of eight identical pieces made in 1969 from a smaller version of 1966. The engineer was John L. Ryde. The sculpture has been loaned to the Museum by PepsiCo, Inc., and will remain in the Sculpture Garden through the month of October.

Osaka I moves through the Garden at a rate of about two and one half feet per minute. When meeting another object or upon being touched, it backs off on a new course. The sculpture, a six-foot high dome constructed of white fiberglass, measures six feet in diameter and is powered by car batteries.

Robert Breer, who was born in Detroit in 1926, started making self-propelled objects in 1965. He had become involved with kinetics as a painter in the early '50s. He progressed into filmmaking, and is now recognized as one of the pioneers of the "Underground Cinema." Since his first short film in 1952, he has completed more than a dozen films, which have been shown internationally, including screenings at The Museum of Modern Art, as well as in New York and London Film Festivals.

A miniature Osaka I, called "Float" -- made of white plastic, 4" high, and battery-powered -- will be sold in the Museum's Christmas Shop in the fall.

Float will sell for \$7.95, or two for \$15.

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Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Associate Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Telephone: (212) 956-7501, 2648.