

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1986

EXHIBITION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED VIDEOTAPES AT MoMA BEGINNING NOVEMBER 27

A selection of twelve new works by fifteen videomakers, including Laurie Anderson, Dale Hoyt, and Victor Masayesva, Jr., will be exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art beginning on Thursday, November 27. VIDEO: RECENT ACQUISITIONS presents videotapes that have recently become part of the Museum's video collection, in six separate programs in the Video Gallery.

The videotapes in the exhibition are informed by an analysis of the video medium and its role in popular culture, especially as a storytelling format. Both fiction and non-fiction subjects are used by these artists to develop new visual and verbal approaches to narrative.

Program I, Intellectual Properties (1985), is by British artist John Adams, whose subject is political and economic power and its exercise by and through the media. Mr. Adams manipulates the meanings of a limited set of images by altering the accompanying sound. A voice-over recites stories and anecdotes, which unite to form a labyrinthine whole.

Belgian artists Danièle and Jacques Louis Nyst's Hyaloidé (1985), West German videomaker Marcel Odenbach's If Memories Could Deceive Me (1986), and West German artist Klaus vom Bruch's Azimut (1985) comprise Program II. Hyaloidé is a meditation on the innocence of children's perceptions. The Nysts use visual images and written words to evoke the system of signs that determine the mental functioning of a child.

Program III is made up of The Complete Anne Frank (1986), by Dale Hoyt of Rochester, and Democracy in America or Everyone Is Welcome (1986), by Dan Boord

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of Columbus, Ohio, and Greg Durbin of Denver. Mr. Hoyt's work presents Anne Frank as person, myth, and manipulated media icon. In this highly personal work, excerpts from a new translation of Frank's famous diary are mixed with assorted media debris and clichés concerning her.

The three works in Program IV are Arcade (1984), by Lyn Blumenthal and Carole Ann Klonarides, both of New York City; Ura-Aru (1985), by Gary Hill of Seattle; and What You Mean We (1986), by Laurie Anderson. Ms. Anderson's videotape, about clones and their human counterparts, addresses the issues of artificial intelligence and the creation of life. She uses image-altering lenses and simple video effects to create a two-dimensional world in which the dualities and polarities of her characters become apparent. The accompanying sound features gospel songs.

Nuclear Outpost (1984), by Deanna Kamiel of Minneapolis and New York City, and Homage to May 19 (1984), by Mary McFerran of New York City, will be shown in Program V. Homage to May 19 treats the well-publicized story of Kathy Boudin, the Weather Underground member imprisoned for political activities. Ms. McFerran juxtaposes television news footage with videotape, transferred from Super-8 film, of an amateur actress impersonating Boudin. Fact merges with fiction, and television "reality" is called into question.

Program VI consists of Itam Hakim Hopiit (1984), by native American Victor Masayesva, Jr., of Arizona. Winner of the Gold Hugo Award at the 1984 Chicago International Film Festival, the videotape is made up of several stories told by the Hopi storyteller Macaya. Each is presented in a manner appropriate to its subject. The blend of realism and surrealism in the stories creates a mythic dimension that introduces the viewer to a Hopi way of perception.

Since the Museum's Department of Film was founded in 1935, it has been acquiring the films of experimental artists working on the fringes of the commercial film industry. The Department of Film began to exhibit, collect, and distribute video works on cassette in the mid-seventies. The video collection currently includes 265 works by more than 225 artists from 18 countries.

VIDEO: RECENT ACQUISITIONS continues through February 10, 1987 (complete schedule attached). Each program is approximately one hour in length. The exhibition has been organized by Barbara London, assistant curator of Video in the Department of Film.

No. 98

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

VIDEO: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

November 27, 1986 - February 10, 1987

The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street, New York
Video Gallery, ground floor

Schedule

PROGRAM I

Intellectual Properties. 1985. John Adams. 56 min.

PROGRAM II

Hyaloidé. 1985. Danièle and Jacques Louis Nyst. 27 min.

If Memories Could Deceive Me. 1986. Marcel Odenbach. 20 min.

Azimut. 1985. Klaus vom Bruch. 7 min.

PROGRAM III

The Complete Anne Frank. 1986. Dale Hoyt. 30 min.

Democracy in America or Everyone Is Welcome. 1986. Dan Boord and Greg Durbin. 14 min.

PROGRAM IV

Arcade. 1984. Lyn Blumenthal and Carole Ann Klonarides. 8 min.

Ura-Aru. 1985. Gary Hill. 27 min.

What You Mean We. 1986. Laurie Anderson. 20 min.

PROGRAM V

Nuclear Outpost. 1984. Deanna Kamiel. 29 min.

Homage to May 19. 1984. Mary McFerran. 30 min.

PROGRAM VI

Itam Hakim Hopiit. 1984. Victor Masayesva, Jr. 60 min.

November 27 - December 31

Monday, Thursday, Saturday-

1:00 p.m.: PROGRAM I

2:30 p.m.: PROGRAM II

4:00 p.m.: PROGRAM III

Thursday evening-

5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 p.m.: PROGRAM IV

Tuesday, Friday, Sunday-

1:00 p.m.: PROGRAM IV

2:30 p.m.: PROGRAM V

4:00 p.m.: PROGRAM VI

January 1 - February 10

Monday, Thursday, Saturday-

1:00 p.m.: PROGRAM VI

2:30 p.m.: PROGRAM V

4:00 p.m.: PROGRAM IV

Thursday evening-

5:30 p.m., 6:30, and 7:30 p.m.: PROGRAM II

Tuesday, Friday, Sunday-

1:00 p.m.: PROGRAM III

2:30 p.m.: PROGRAM II

4:00 p.m.: PROGRAM I