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.
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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Exhibition Schedule

Program 1
Mondays, 12:00 p.m.


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


Program 3
Mondays, 4:00 p.m.; Fridays, 2:00 p.m.


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


Program 5
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:00 p.m.


Program 6
Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.

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

Program 7
Thursdays 12:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.


- more -
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.

Program 10
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.; Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

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

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