

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1993

BETWEEN WORD AND IMAGE

April 1 - May 31, 1993

An exhibition of videotapes by artists who work directly with poetry is on view at The Museum of Modern Art from April 1 to May 31, 1993. **BETWEEN WORD AND IMAGE** comprises twenty-five tapes that extend the very idea of poetry as an auditory and visual form by juxtaposing imagery, music, text, and sound.

Video is particularly adaptable to poetry because the flexibility of the technology -- editing, computer imaging, and montage -- makes it possible to visualize metaphors. Both recent video work and contemporary poetry have the energetic vitality of an emerging art form. Many of today's poets are expanding traditional and free-verse poetry, and some are working in performance and video by combining poems with hip-hop, rap, and other new music styles. Others are reciting poetry in competitive "slams" before an audience.

The videotapes in the exhibition are arranged according to four broadly defined areas of poetic styles. The tradition of narrative poetry, for instance, is seen Pratibha Parmar's *Sari Red* (1988), which reveals the pattern of violence against diasporan Indian women. Performance poetry is exemplified in Veronica Soul's *The Law is in the Seed* (1992), a work based on a poem about the Iroquois's democratic traditions, featuring Mohawk writer Alex Jacos and Native American children.

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The third section represented in the exhibition is devoted to lyric poetry, as seen in Mike Hazard's *Weird Wood* (1992), a reflection on trees; and the final section, language and poetry, punctuates text with images, as seen in Anne Tardos's *Ami Minden* (1993), a multilingual tape about various meanings derived from language.

As part of the **VIDEO VIEWPOINTS** program, on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Shuntaro Tanikawa presents *Video Letter* (1982-83), a video correspondence he made with Shuji Terayama, which is based on an ancient style of Japanese poetry. Joining Tanikawa, poet and videomaker Terese Svoboda examines this work in the context of contemporary poetry.

A panel discussion on poetry and video, with producer Bob Holman, critic Marjorie Perloff, and Terese Svoboda, is planned at Poets House, 72 Spring Street, New York, on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. For information, call 212/431-7920.

BETWEEN WORD AND IMAGE was organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film; Sally Berger, assistant, Video, Department of Film; and Terese Svoboda, in conjunction with Poets House, New York.

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

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Exhibition Schedule

PROGRAM 1 - Lyric Poetry, Part 1

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

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

PROGRAM 2 - Lyric Poetry, Part 2

Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.; Fridays, 2:00 p.m.

Things I Forget to Tell Myself. 1988. Shelly Silver. 2 min.

Haiku Vision. 1992. Steve Bull. 7 min.

Strange Space. 1992. Leslie Thornton and Ron Vawter. 3 min.

Weird Wood. 1992. Mike Hazard. 1 min.

What Memphis Needs. 1992. Alexis Krasilovsky. 4 min.

Note in the Box. 1984. David Blair. 12 min.

Glue Man. 1991. Jem Cohen. 1 min.

PROGRAM 3 - Language and Poetry

Mondays, 12:00 p.m.; Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.

Sundays, 2:00 p.m.

Static. 1981. Kit Fitzgerald and John Sanborn. With Eric Bogosian and Jo Bonnie. 2 min.

Processual Video. 1980. Gary Hill. 11 min.

Banana. 1991. Hitoshi Takekiyo. 6 min.

Ami Minden. 1993. Anne Tardos. 7 min.

Cowboy Romance. 1991. Charles Woodman. 3 min.

This Nervous Thing. 1991. Eder Santos. 14 min.

PROGRAM 4 - Narrative Poetry

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

Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Lust. 1988. Terese Svoboda. 7 min.

Suburbs of Eden. 1992. Cecelia Condit. 15 min.

Sari Red. 1988. Pratibha Parmar. 11 min.

Cold Stories. 1992. Margot Starr Kernan. 11 min.

In Shadow City. 1988. Constance de Jong and Ken Feingold. 11 min.

Carmen. 1991. Laurie Anderson. 13 min.

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PROGRAM 5 - Performance Poetry

Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.; Fridays, 12:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.
Sundays, 12:00 p.m.

Shut 'Em Down. 1992. Public Enemy. 4 min.

Two Black Men and a Baby on the Way. 1992. Daryl Patterson. 2 min.

Splash. 1991. Thomas Harris. 7 min.

The Law is in The Seed. 1992. Veronica Soul. 1 min.

Lament of the Sugarbushman. 1987. Rhonda Abrams. 15 min.

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