

The Museum of Modern Art

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RECENT WORKS BY FOUR CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHERS EXPLORE A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND TECHNIQUES AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

New Photography 13: Rineke Dijkstra, An-My Lê, Vik Muniz, Kunié Sugiura
October 24, 1997–January 13, 1998

The Museum of Modern Art presents the thirteenth exhibition in its annual **New Photography** series devoted to important contemporary photographic work. Rineke Dijkstra (The Netherlands, b. 1959), An-My Lê (Vietnam, b. 1960), Vik Muniz (Brazil, b. 1961), and Kunié Sugiura (Japan, b. 1942) are the artists represented in the exhibition. Ms. Dijkstra currently lives in Amsterdam and the others in New York City. Organized by Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, *New Photography 13* opens on October 24, 1997, and remains on view through January 13, 1998.

Rineke Dijkstra gained an international reputation with her series *Beach Portraits* (1992), full-length views of adolescents at seaside resorts around the world. Selections from her series of women standing and holding their moments-old infants, and a captivating portrait of a toddler are also presented. Her subjects are photographed in the center of the picture frame, underscoring their physical isolation and the levels of vulnerability they are evidently experiencing. This is the first extensive American showing of Ms. Dijkstra's work.

An-My Lê left Saigon at the age of fifteen and emigrated to the U.S. with her family. She worked as a researcher in immunology until, in 1986, she went to France where she spent six years as a staff photographer for a guild of artisans. Shortly after receiving her M.F.A. from the Yale University School of Art in 1993, she returned to Vietnam to reconnect with her cultural history. Her black-and-white landscapes of countryside, farmland, and

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villages eloquently document a nation in transition and, informed by memories and family stories, provide impressions of a native daughter's journey to her homeland. This is Ms. Lê's first major museum exhibition.

Vik Muniz's work has been widely exhibited around the U.S., Europe, and his native Brazil. His provocative series, *The Sugar Children* (1996), began as Polaroid portraits of six children of sugar plantation workers he met on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. Using a method akin to sand painting, he copied the portraits by layering granulated sugar on dark paper and photographing the results. Selections from a new series depicting commonplace objects made in a similar fashion with dirt on a light-box are also on view, as is a large-scale diptych made with chocolate syrup. Mr. Muniz's processes short-circuit customary associations with subject and material and create unconventional works.

Kunié Sugiura, also based in New York, was born in Japan and trained in the traditional fine arts at the Art Institute of Chicago. Her large-scale photograms, measuring approximately 40 by 30 inches, are made from arrangements of flowers and threads. Hot water is introduced during the developing process to create different hues and qualities. Ms. Sugiura's works reveal the synergetic results of bringing together chance and design.

The exhibition is made possible by Banana Republic.

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