

SHIGEKO KUBOTA

Video Art Foundation

110 Mercer Street,
NYC 10012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2019, Beacon, NY

Shigeko Kubota: Restored in Beacon

Opening reception Saturday, November 2, 6-8 pm

A preview showing of newly restored video sculptures by the pioneering video artist Shigeko Kubota will be on view at Mother Gallery in Beacon, New York, from November 2 through December 15, 2019.

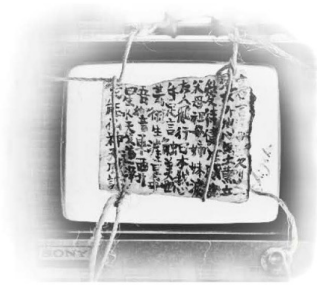
Kubota is one of the key figures in the downtown video art scene of the 1970s, renowned as both a pioneering artist and video curator working closely for many years with Jonas Mekas at Anthology Film Archive.

Kubota, born in Niigata, Japan in 1937, moved to New York in 1964 at the invitation of Fluxus impresario George Maciunas. She lived and worked in SoHo as an active Fluxus participant, and was particularly known for her work relating to Marcel Duchamp and John Cage. Married to Nam June Paik, the “godfather” of video art, Kubota, who died in 2015, was also a key figure in the development of the new medium.

Kubota’s work involves video sculptures that function as an homage to Duchampian ideas and icons, video installations that reference Japanese notions of landscape, and an ongoing deeply personal Video Diary Project documenting her life and her unique world view.

The Mother Gallery presentation, *Shigeko Kubota: Restored in Beacon*, will include four fully restored works from the *Duchampiana* series, including *Duchamp’s Grave (1972-75)*, *Nude Descending a Staircase (1976)*, *Bicycle Wheel (1977- 82)*, and *Video Chess (1968-75)*. Several works in the *Duchampiana* series as well as other major Kubota works have recently been structurally reconstituted by Jon Reichert, locally based cabinetry artisan and flawlessly restored by the Japanese-American artist Kazumi Tanaka, a world-renowned Beacon sculptor, who is also widely acknowledged to be a master restorer of antique furniture.

This selection of newly restored Kubota works was organized by David A. Ross, former director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, ICA Boston, and SFMOMA. Ross worked closely with Kubota and Paik starting in the early 1970s when he was the world’s first curator of video art at the Everson Museum in Syracuse, New York. He



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frequently included Kubota in the landmark video exhibitions he created during that time, and presented her work in one-woman exhibitions at the Long Beach Museum of Art in 1976 and at the Whitney in 1998.

The restoration of the artworks as well as the exhibition are supported by the Shigeko Kubota Video Art Foundation, the first artist-endowed foundation dedicated to Video Art. The Foundation has within its mission supporting the legacy of Kubota's work through exhibition and publication, and more broadly, a mission to establish a video art center devoted to fostering the preservation and exhibition of new and historically significant video art works, a long-held vision expressed by both Paik and Kubota.

Norman L. Ballard, Director of the Foundation (which also maintains the historic Mercer Street loft residence, studio and personal archive of Paik and Kubota), noted that "in preparation for a major exhibition of Kubota's seminal works to tour Japan, we made the overall decision to establish a studio workshop for her video conservation and sculptural restoration in Beacon in consideration of the abundance of resources there that benefit our foundation's mission. In addition to Dia:Beacon and a thriving gallery and art-space district, there is a vibrant community of artists and artisans, and an emerging community of video post-production resources. As the first results of our foundation initiative there, we are extremely pleased to be able to preview these remarkable works at Mother Gallery in Beacon in their fully restored form, after a nearly 30 year absence from art audiences."

Shigeko Kubota: Restored in Beacon opens on Saturday, November 2, from 6-8 pm at Mother Gallery, 1154 North Avenue in Beacon, New York.

For further information:

Mother Gallery, Paola Oxoá can be reached at 845-236-6039

Kubota Foundation, Norman Ballard can be reached at 646-319-7954

About the Exhibition, David A. Ross can be reached at 917-892-5151

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