

**SHIGEKO KUBOTA**

**3 VIDEO INSTALLATIONS**

**Duchampiana**

**Rene Block Gallery**

**409 West Broadway**

**New York, N.Y. 10012**

**Tel.: 431-8430**

**10 AM. to 6 PM**

**January 24 to February 17, 1976**

René Block Gallery Ltd.  
409 West Broadway  
New York 10012  
Tel. 431 8430

Are we already tired of video? Yes. There is much too much boring video around. But Shigeiko Kubota's video is a completely different kind of video. It deals with an area which has been neglected entirely:

#### COMMUNICATION with DEATH

Ms. Kubota carried a video machine on her back, just as the oriental woman traditionally carries her baby on her back, and visited Marcel Duchamp's grave in a large cemetery near Rouen, France. Grave-watchers never heard such swearing. After hours of searching, she finally located Duchamp's grave and discovered the ultimate wit of the wittiest man of our time:

"d'ailleurs, c'est toujours, les autres qui meurt"  
"By the way, it is always others, who die"

Ms. Kubota's video picture of Marcel Duchamp's grave has since adorned the cover of Arts Magazine's special video issue and now her communion with Duchamp's un-dieing soul has become a 10 story video gothic tower at the Rene Block Gallery. The sound of wintry wind at Rouen carries us on a psychic trip to Duchamp's land.

If Duchamp were with us today, he might have quipped with a characteristic grin:

"Video is Vacation of Art"

The art world of the sixties evolved out of the dialectic tension of the two poles: art and anti-art. The art of the seventies seems to be developing on the tripartite evolution: art, anti-art, and video as ( a ) vacation of art between them.

Ms. Kubota, who met Marcel Duchamp on an American Airlines flight to Buffalo, made the now famous picture series of the Duchamp / Cage chess game at Toronto. She later published a sophisticated audio-visual book, including John Cage's necrology for Duchamp, which celebrated that unforgettable event.

At Rene Block the images and sounds of Duchamp and Cage playing chess are transformed into "blue video blues" ( the color of Duchamp's overcoat on that night ). It is the first video chess set on which you can actually play chess with Duchamp and Cage.

René Block Gallery Ltd.  
409 West Broadway  
New York 10012  
Tel. 431 8430

A third and Ms. Kubota's most colorful piece at Rene Block is an actual staircase incorporating video monitors which play the nude descending the staircase with Duchampian dizziness.

Although Marcel Duchamp made a huge entrance gate, he did not make the exit gate. Now many young artists are trapped in his echo chamber, copying again and again his trivia. But Ms. Kubota has masterfully utilized the medium of video ( almost the only thing, which Duchamp did not discover ) and has successfully entered into a creative dialogue with this creative soul.

Is there life after death? Ms. Kubota's video throws a new light on this eternal question. Her video dissects, transforms and restructures the concept of time, just as a chess game dissects, transforms and restructures the concept of chance.

Ms. Kubota's work has been represented in almost all mayor video shows. Her Navajo tape is currently being played at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where she was also invited to speak at the Open Circuits: "The future of television" in 1974. Her's was one the few videotapes to be selected for viewing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. 1974 " Art Now " and at the Whitney Museum " Projected Video " in 1975. She is the video curator at the Anthology Film Archives in New York and was the vice chairman of the FLUXUS New York chapter in the sixties. She is also a prime mover behind the prolific Women's Video Movement at the Women's Art Center, New York.

René Block Gallery Ltd.  
409 West Broadway  
New York 10012  
Tel. 431 8430

Shigeeko Kubota

Born 1937, Niigata, Japan

- Graduated from Tokyo University of Education, B.A. Sculpture.
- Studied at New York University, The New School of Social Research, Art School of the Brooklyn Museum.
- Invited by the Chicago Institute of the Arts as a visiting video artist, 1973.
- Vice-Chairman of Fluxus Organization, New York, 1964.
- Video Curator of Anthology Film Archives, New York.

Video Shows and Video Performances

1976 Synthesized Video, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

1975 Five Artists and their Videowork with William Wegman, Joan Jonas, Peter Campus and Terry Fox, Seattle.  
Projected Video, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.  
Women's Video Festival, Women's Interart Center, New York.  
Women's Video Festival, Paris, France.  
Arte De Video, Fundacion Museo De Arte Contemporaneo De Caracas.  
Southland Video Anthology, Long Beach Museum of the Arts, Calif.  
Video Art, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylv.  
One Woman Video Show: Video Poem, The Kitchen, New York.

1974 Art Now 1974, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.  
Project 1974, Cologne, Germany.  
Women in Film and Video, State University of New York, Buffalo.  
Open Circuits; The Future of Television. A Study Conference at The Museum of Modern Art, N.Y.C.  
Video Celebration for J. Cage, Harvard University, Kirkland Home.  
Film by Women Chicago 1974, Chicago, Ill.  
Tokyo Biennale 1974, Tokyo, Japan.  
Organized Tokyo-New York Video Express, Tokyo, Japan.  
2nd International Computer Art Festival, The Kitchen, New York.

1973 2nd Annual New York Video Festival, The Kitchen, Mercer Arts Cent  
One Woman Video Show, Chicago Inst. of the Arts, Chicago, Ill.  
Women's Intern. Film and Video Festival, Toronto, Canada.  
WBAI Video Benifit, Automation House, New York.  
Women's Video Festival, University of Ill., Chicago, Ill.  
White, Red, Black and Yellow, ( Four women's group show ),  
- The Kitchen, Mercer Arts Center, New York.  
CIRCUIT, Everson Museum, Syracuse, N.Y. -- traveled to County  
- Museum, Los Angeles, California, The Greenville South  
- Carolina Museum of Fine Arts, Greenville, South Carolina,  
- De Saisset Art Museum, Santa Clara, California and Museum  
- of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass.



René Block Gallery Ltd.  
409 West Broadway  
New York 10012  
Tel. 431 8430

1972 1st New York Annual Video Festival, The Kitchen, Mercer  
- Arts Center, New York.  
Video Birthday Party for John Cage, The Kitchen, Mercer  
- Arts Center, New York.  
One Woman Video Show with Experimental TV Center of Birminghamton,  
- Everson Museum, Syracuse, N.Y.  
1st Annual Women Video Maker's Festival, The Kitchen, Mercer  
- Arts Center, New York.  
Yellow, Black, White and Red, ( Four women's group show ),  
- The Kitchen, Mercer Arts Center, New York.  
Video Group Show, De Saisset Art Gallery, University of Santa Clara  
9th Annual Avant Garde Festival, New York.  
Video Show, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

### Publications

Author of the book, Marcel Duchamp and John Cage, distributed  
by Wittenborn, Inc., New York.

Magazine Articles: correspondent for japanese Art Magazines  
( 1968 - 1971 )

The Bijutsu Te Cho articles on Marcel Duchamp and John Cage,  
Their Chess Game Concert, Toronto, Canada, 1968;  
The New Art in New York and Art and Ecology, New Life Style;  
A review of TV as Creative Medium Show at the Howard Wise Gallery,  
New York, 1968.

Video Art in New York, Video Express, Tokyo, 1973

René Block Gallery Ltd.  
409 West Broadway  
New York 10012  
Tel. 431 8430

Exhibition S H I G E K O K U B O T A , Jan 24 - Febr 17, 1976

We like to thank:

Bob Harris, Production Manager  
Al Robbins, Construction of three structures  
Sheila McLaughlin, Performing in "Nude Descending A Staircase"  
Stephen O'Donnell, Super 8mm Film-images for "Nude Descending"

Marcel Duchamp, John Cage, Teeny Duchamp, David Tudor, David  
Beherman, Gordon Mumma, Lowell Cross, Reunion a concert:  
"CHESSGAME" as performers

Ken Domónik, Videocameras of S.Kubota's photographs "CHESS"  
John Trayna, Post-production "CHESS"  
George Maciunas, Chess-set for "CHESS"

Nick Tarr, assistant  
Kathy Landman, Photographer  
Francene Keery, Title slides

Greatful acknowledgement to:

Shridhar Bapat, David Ross, Spiritual Video-encouragement for S.K.  
Anthology Film Archives  
Electronic Arts Intermix  
WNET TV LAB.  
M.E.R.C.  
Experimental TV-Center, Binghamton  
The Kitchen  
Technisphere Corp.

This exhibition was made possible in part by support from CAPS