Shigeko Kubota: Video Mirror

Fergus McCaffrey, New York
November 7th- December 21st, 2024

Honoring the 50th anniversary of Shigeko Kubota's (1937-2015) first video sculpture, *Duchampiana: Marcel Duchamp's Grave*, 1972–1975, Fergus McCaffrey is proud to present an exhibition surveying the artist's foundational work pioneering video as an immersive medium.

Portrait of Shigeko Kubota with her work *Video Poem*, 1975. Photograph by Mary Lucier, Courtesy Shigeko Kubota Video Art Foundation, © Estate of Shigeko Kubota.

First exhibited at The Kitchen, New York, in 1975, *Duchampiana: Marcel Duchamp's Grave*, refracts images of the artist's grave in Rouen, France into an infinite mirror. Alongside this early work is Kubota's, *Video Rock Garden*, 1996, one the artist's final experiments in video sculpture. Restored and exhibited for the first time since the artist's 1996 solo exhibition, *Video is Ghost of Yourself*, at Lance Fung Gallery, *Video Rock Garden* reinterprets traditional Japanese rock gardens through mirrored polygons and ethereal, colorful floral imagery.

Original installation, *Duchampiana: Marcel Duchamp's Grave* at the Kitchen 1975, photo by Peter Moore, Courtesy Shigeko Kubota Video Art Foundation, © Estate of Shigeko Kubota.

Also included in the exhibition are *Niagara Falls I*, 1985, representing the development of Kubota's multimedia immersive environments, *Video Poem*, 1970-1975, which premiered at the Kitchen alongside *Duchamp's Grave*, and *Meta-Marcel: Window*, 1976, the origin of the flower imagery that appears in *Video Rock Garden*.

Together, these works chart evolutions in Kubota's approach, from the combination of traditional forms and new media to enduring concerns of landscape, self, death and technology.

Shigeko Kubota exhibited her work widely, including solo exhibitions at The Kitchen, New York (1975), Rene Block Gallery, New York (1976, 1977), Long Beach Museum of Art (1977), Japan Society, New York (1978, 1983), the American Museum of the Moving Image, New York (1991), Whitney Museum (1996), and international group exhibitions including Documenta, Kassel (1977, 1987), Whitney Biennial (1983), and Venice Biennale (1993).

Recent solo retrospectives include "Viva Video" toured to the Niigata Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, National Museum of Art, Osaka; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2021–2022) and "Liquid Reality" at The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2021).

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