NAM JUNE PAIK

Biography

Born in 1932, Nam June Paik was a Korean-born American artist who died in 2006 in Miami. Originally focused on music, he trained as pianist before turning to the visual arts. In the 1950s, during the Korean War, he and his family left Korea, first moving to Hong Kong, then to Japan, where Paik continued his piano studies at the University of Tokyo. His degree dissertation was on Arnold Schönberg.

Paik left Japan for Germany, where he enrolled at the University of Munich to study with Karlheinz Stockhausen. Stockhausen introduced him to electronic music and it was during this period that Paik created his first installations bringing together sound and image. Swept up in the avant-garde movement of the time, he was a member of Fluxus along with friends and contemporaries including John Cage and Joseph Beuys.

In 1964 he moved to New York and began to collaborate with the cellist Charlotte Moorman. Together they created works that married sculpture, music and performance, including the celebrated *Opera sextronique* (1967) and *TV Bra for living sculpture* (1969).

Towards the mid sixties Paik's use of video was facilitated by the introduction of the earliest handheld video cameras. It was around this time that Paik started to make short sequences that he edited together in complex montages, marked by the notion of repetition and scansion. The television monitor, neon light and transistor radio became recurring elements in the sculptures and installations of which these filmed sequences formed a part.

Within this hybrid artistic practice, Paik saw himself as a pioneer of multimedia art, a practice that was finding new ways to evolve at the crossroads of traditional artistic categories. The omnipresence of the animated image in his work, transmitted by alternating monitors and screens (the screen is a central element in his work), in many respects prefigures the Internet and today's 'screen generation' as it is often called.

Beyond the originality of the media he worked with, Paik's work is also and above all a dionysian and hedonistic celebration of life, whatever the conditions in which it has evolved. Consequently, as opposed to technophobic belief, which tends to see in technological evolution a threat (not without reason; one need only look at nuclear disasters or the silence that greets the provocative question of genetic modification in agriculture), Paik's work proposes an optimistic vision of the union between man and machine, where the machine broadens, supports and welcomes man's spiritual and material emancipation.

Paik's works resemble small altars, often – whether looked at close up or from a distance - with an anthropomorphic element that echoes the distant rumble of the great Korean and western metropoles, glittering with their brightly-lit advertising hoardings. They are also deeply imbued with pop culture iconography that bursts out with scintillating life.

Exhibition List

1963

Wuppertal, Germany, Galerie Parnass, Exposition of Music-Electronic Television, March 11-20.- Siegfried Bonk. "Uber dem Eingang ein blutiger Ochsenkopf." KolnerStadt-Anzeiger (Cologne), March 16.- John AnthonyThwaites. "Der Philosoph and die Katze: Nam June Paik in der Galerie Parnass in Wuppertal." Deutsche Zeitung, April 9, p. 10.

- New York, New School for Social Research, Nam June Paik: Cybernetics Art and Music, Jan. 8.-"Paik ShowsTV at New School." Village Voice (New York), Jan. 7, p. 14.- New York, Galeria Bonino, Nam June Paik ElectronicArt, Nov. 23-Dec. 11. Brochure, with text by Paik.- Emily Genauer. "Critical Guide to the Galleries." New York Herald Tribune, Nov. 27.- John Canaday. "Art:The Electronics-Kinetics Trend." New York Times, Dec. 4, p. L27.- Emily Genauer. "Marriage of the Arts-New Dreams for Old." New York Magazine, Dec. 5.- Lucy Lippard. "New York Letter." Art International (Lugano, Switzerland) 10, no. 1 (Jan.), pp. 90-96.- Howard Junker. "The New Silver Screen." Esquire (New York) 66, no. 4 (Oct.).

1967

- New York, Art Center of the Paul Klapper Library, Queens College of The City University of New York, Expanding Perceptions in the Arts, March 20-22.

1968

- Stony Brook, New York, SUNY Stony Brook, Art Gallery, Nam June Paik Exhibit, March 1-15. Brochure.- New York, Galeria Bonino, Electronic Art II, April 17-May 11. Brochure, with essay by Allan Kaprow.- John Canaday. "Art: Serene Squares and Tortured TV" The New York Times, April 4.- Peter Schjeldahl. "Stripes, Paper Bags, and TV" The New York Times, May 5, p. 11-31.

1971

- New York, Galeria Bonino in collaboration with Intermedia Institute, ElectronicArt I/I: Paik-Abe Video - - - Synthesizer with Charlotte Moorman,Nov. 23-Dec. 11. Catalogue, with introduction by Russell Connor and text by Paik.

1974

New York, Galeria Bonino, Nam June Paik: T. V. Sea: ElectronicArt IV, Jan. 15-Feb. 2. Catalogue.-Hilton Kramer. "A Fast Sequence of Forms Changing Color and Shape."The New York Times, Feb. 3, p. D25.Syracuse, New York, Everson Museum of Art, Nam June Paik: Videa 'n' Videology 1959-1973, Jan. 15-Feb. 15. Catalogue, edited by Judson Rosenbush and with texts by Paik. Special oversize limited edition reprinted 1997 by Tova Press.

1975

- NewYork, Martha Jackson Gallery, Fish on the Sky-Fish hardly flies anymore on the Sky-let Fishes fly again, dates unknown.- NewYork, Rend Block Gallery, Nam June Paik, Feb. 1-Mar. 4.- P. Frank. "Nam June Paik: Rend Block Gallery, NewYork." Art inAmerica (NewYork) 63, no. 5 (Sept.-Oct.), pp. 104-05.

1976

- NewYork, Rend Block Gallery, Moon /s the Oldest TV-Set, Feb. 21-March 18.- Ingrid Wiegand. "Great Paik and Little Fishes." SoHoArts Weekly (NewYork), March 11, p. 15.- Gregory Battcock. "Video and Napkins." Domus (Como), no. 559 (June), p. 52.NewYork, Bonino in Soho, Fish Flies on the Sky, Feb. 21-March 18.- Ingrid Wiegand. "Great Paik and Little Fishes." SoHoArts Weekly (NewYork), March 11, p. 15.- Gregory Battcock. "Video and Napkins." Domus (Como), no. 559 (June), p. 52.- Cologne, Kolnischer Kunstverein, Nam June Paik: Werke 1946-1976: Musik-Fluxus-Video,Nov. 19, 1976-Jan. 9, 1977. Catalogue, with introduction by Wulf Herzogenrath, essays by Peter Frank, Wulf Herzogenrath, Hainz-Klaus Metzger, Tomas Schmit, Rainer Wick, and Jean-Pierre Wilhelm, and texts by Paik.- Georg Jappe. "Unnormales Abendprogramm: Nam June Paik in Koln." Die Zeit (Hamburg), Nov. 26.

1977

- New York, The Museum of Modern Art, Projects: Nam June Paik, closed Oct. 9. Information sheet, with essay by Barbara London.

- Tokyo, Galerie Watari, A Tribute to John Cage, May 15-30.- Berlin, Rend Block Gallery, Fluxus Traffic, Oct. 10-Nov. 20.- Paris, Musee d'Art Moderne de laVille de Paris, Nam June Paik Retrospective, Nov. 22,1978Jan. 8, 1979. Brochure.- D. Bloch. "Nam June Paik et ses pianos 8 lumiPres." Art Press (Paris), no. 23 (Dec.), pp. 8-9.

1980

- New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, The New American Filmmakers Series, Nam June Paik, Feb. 26-March 2. Brochure. Tokyo, Galerie Watari, VIDEA Iro Iro: PAPER TV and Tropical Fish, Sept. 1-22. Brochure.

1981

- Tokyo, Galerie Watari, By with of on Beuys, Cage, Cunningham, Paik, Aug. 11-26.

1982

- NewYork, Whitney Museum of American Art, Nam June Paik, April 30-June 27. Catalogue, with foreword by Tom Armstrong and essays by John G. Hanhardt, Michael Nyman, Dieter Ronte, and David A. Ross. Traveled to Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sept. 11-Oct. 24.- Martin Pops. "Nam June Paik: Ales and Cake." Bennington Review (Nutley, New Jersey), no. 14 (winter), pp. 29-30.- Paul Gardner. "Tuning in to Nam June Paik." ARTnews (NewYork) 81, no. 5 (May), pp. 64-73.- Grace Glueck. "Art: Nam June Paik Has Show at Whitney."The New York Times, May 9, p. C24.- Robert Hughes. "Electronic Finger Painting." Time (New York), May 17.- Kay Larson. "Nam June Paik's Zen Video." New York Magazine, May 24, pp. 81-82.- J. Hoberman. "Paik's Peak." The Village Voice (New York), May 28, pp. 39-40.- Leendert Drukker. "Video Pioneer Upsets Reality." Popular Photography 89, no. 8 (Aug.), pp. 134, 148.- B. Kurtz. "Paikvision." Artforum (NewYork) 21, no. 2 (Oct.), pp. 52-55. Paris, Centre Georges Pompidou, Mus6e national d'art moderne, Nam June Paik, Dec. 15, 1982-April 10,

1983

- Brochure, with essays by Pierre Restany and Jean-Paul Fargier.- Frederic Edelmann. "Nam June Paik A distance." Le Monde (Paris), Jan. 2, 1983, pp. 9.

Cincinnati, Carl Solway Gallery, Video Flag, Sept. 6-Dec. 31.

1984

- Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Nam June Paik-Mostly Video, June 14-July 29. Catalogue, with essays by John G. Hanhardt, U-fan Lee, and Itsuo Sakane, and text by Paik.- Yusuke Nakahara. "Socialization of New Art." Sankei Shimbun (Tokyo), June 22, p. 9.- Youichi Yokota. "Adding a Time Axis to Art: 'Frame of TV' As an Oil Painting." Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo), July 2.- Boston, Institute of Contemporary Art, Nam June Paik: BSO and Beyond, Sept. 6-Nov. 4. Brochure.- Berlin, daadgalerie, Art for 25 Million People: Good Morning, Mr. Orwell, Kunst and Satelliten in der Zukunft, Nov. 28-Dec. 9. Catalogue, with foreword and essays by Renb Block, and text by Paik.

- Cincinnati, Carl Solway Gallery, Family of Robot, March 5-April 30. Brochure.- New York, Holly Solomon Gallery, Family of Robot, Sept. 25-Oct. 25.- Michael Brenson. "Nam June Paik." The New York Times, Oct. 3, p. C29.- Douglas McGill. "Nam June Paik." The New York Times, Oct. 3, p. C26.- Roberta Smith. "Out of the Wasteland." Newsweek (New York), Oct. 13, p. 67.- Dan Rubey. "Nam June Paik." ARTnews (New York) 85, no. 10 (Dec.), pp. 145, 147.- Walter Robinson. "Nam June Paik at Holly Solomon Gallery." Art in America (New York) 75, no. 6 (June 1987)
- Tokyo, Galerie Watari, Bye-Bye Kipling Drawings, Oct. 9-25. Catalogue, with essay by HeigoTakashima and text by Paik. Fukui, Fukui Theater FBC, Nam June Paik, Oct. 11-Nov. 3.-"Exploring the Future of Image Culture: The World of Video Art, Exhibition of Nam June Paik." Asahi Shimbun (Osaka), Oct. 1.- KazuoYamawaki. "Exhibition of Nam June Paik: Kaleidoscopic World of Video." Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo), Oct. 18.- "The Age of Video: Art Is Now Invading the Field of Theater and Music.' Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo), Jan. 14.

1988

- Santa Monica, California, Dorothy Goldeen Gallery, Nam June Paik: Beuys and Bogie, Feb. 18-March 26.- Christopher Knight. "Medium's Message Lost in Transition." Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Feb. 18, p. 4.- Jacki Apple. "The Last Great ModernistPaik's Peak." Art week (Oakland), March 19, p. 5.London, Hayward Gallery, Nam June Paik: Video Works 1963-88, Sept. 29-Dec. 11. Catalogue, with foreword by Joanna Drew and Gerlinde Gabriel and essay by Wulf Herzogenrath.- Carrie Donald. "The TV Screen As Sculptor's Model." The Independent (London), Sept. 27, p. 1.- William Feaver. "TenTanks of Silly Old Guppies." Observer (London), Oct. 2.- Nicky Hamlyn. "The Far Side of the Screen." The Guardian (London), Oct. 6, p. 24.- Nena Dimitrijevic. "Nam June Paik." Flash Art (Milan), no. 144 (Jan.-Feb. 1989), p. 130.- Michael Phillipson. "Nam June Paik." Artscribe International (London) 73, no. 1 (Jan.-Feb. 1989), pp. 74-75.London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, Nam June Paik: "V-Idea," Oct. 1-Nov. 5.- Nena Dimitrijevic. "Nam June Paik." Flash Art (Milan), no. 144 (Jan.-Feb. 1989), p. 130.Cincinnati, Contemporary Arts Center, Metrobot, permanent outdoor sculpture dedicated Nov. 4.

1989

- Frankfurt, Portikus, Eine KerzelOne Candle, Jan. 21-March 12. Catalogue, with introduction by Kaspar Konig and Ulrich Wilmes and essays by Jean-Christoph Ammann and Edith Decker.- Kyu-chul Ahn. "Review of Paik's Exhibition 'Eine Kerze' in Frankfurt." Wolgan Misool (Seoul), March, pp. 125-26.- Laszlo Glozer. "Die Kerze and DieTelevision." Suddeutsche Zeitung (Munich), no. 61 (March), p. 35.- Noemi Smolik. "Nam June Paik." Artforum (NewYork) 28, no. 10 (summer), p. 155-56. Translated from the German by Joachim Neugroschel.- Bilbao, Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao, Nam June Paik, April 11-May 30. Catalogue.- Paris, Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, La Fee a/ectronique, April 28-Oct. 31. Catalogue, with foreword by Suzanne Page and essays by Suzanne Page and Pierre Restany.- Fukuoka, Fukuoka Art Museum, Nam June Paik: The Family of Robot, June 27-July 16. Catalogue, with essay by Barbara London and text by Paik. Traveled to Nagoya City Art Museum, July 28-Aug. 27.- MizutaniTakashi. "Linking Technology and Human." Mainichi Shimbun (Tokyo), Aug. 4.- San Francisco, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Nam June Paik, July 13-Sept. 3. Traveled to Santa - Monica, Calif., Dorothy Goldeen Gallery, Jan. 6-Feb. 10, 1990; Dallas Museum of Art, Oct. 11-Dec. 6,1992; - Newport Beach, Calif., Newport Harbor Art Museum; Tempe, Arizona, University of Arizona; and Fresno, Calif., Fresno Art Museum.NewYork, Holly Solomon Gallery, Nam June Paik: Recent Paintings and Sculpture, Nov. 1-25.-Robert Mahoney. "Nam June Paik." Arts Magazine (NewYork) 64, no. 7 (Feb. 1990), pp. 101-02.

1990

- Geneva, Galerie Marika Malacorda, Nam June Paik: TV, Feb. 8-March 31.- Reggio Emilia, Italy, Chiostri di San Domenico, Nam June Paik, Feb. 17-March 11.- Dusseldorf, Galerie Hans Mayer, Nam June Paik: Sterne, Sept. 20-Oct. 20.- Philadelphia, One FranklinTown Apartments, VideoArbor permanent outdoor installation dedicated Oct. 23. Brochure.- Anonymous. "Video Visionary." Applause (Philadelphia), Nov., p. 9.Miami, Miami International Airport, Miami and Wing, permanent indoor sculptures dedicated Nov. 29.Frankfurt, Galerie Lupke, Nam June Paik. Grafiken and Multiples, Dec. 1, 1990-Jan. 12, 1991.- Konstanze Crowell. "Konstlerische Philosophie mit hohem Unterhaltungswert: DieVideowelt des Nam June Paik." Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (Frankfurt), Dec. 16, p. 18.

- Cologne, Galerie Berndt and Krips, Nam June Paik, Jan. 18-Feb. 28. Brochure, with essay by Wulf Herzogenrath.- Seoul, Gallery Hyundai and Gallery Won, A Pas de Loup: de Seoul a Budapest, July 30-Aug. 20. Catalogue, with essays by Jean-Paul Fargier, Hong-hee Kim, and Kwang Su Oh, and text by Paik.- Basel, Kunsthalle Basel, Video Time-Video Space, Aug. 15-Oct. 27. Joint exhibit with Zurich, Kunsthaus Zurich, Aug. 16-Oct. 6. Catalogue, with introduction by Toni Stooss, essays by John Cage, Wolfgang
- Drechsler, Thomas Kellein, Charlotte Moorman, David Ross, et al., and text by Paik. Traveled to Dusseldorf, Stadtische Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Nov. 30, 1991-Jan. 12,1992; and Vienna, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig and Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts Wien, Feb. 27-April 12, 1992. Reprinted with revised backmatter by Abrams, New York, 1993.
- -Yong-woo Lee. "Nam June Paik-Video Art: Power and Spirit of Thirty Years." Wolgan Misool (Seoul), Sept., pp. 50-54.-Bernard Mack. "Kreuzweg des Elektronischen Ze italters." Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung (Hannover), Sept. 14.-

Markus Bruderlin. "Zurich/Basel: Nam June Paik." Artforum (New York) 30, no. 5 (Jan. 1992), p. 117.London, The Mayor Gallery, Nam June Paik: Video Sculpture, Nov. 25, 1991-Jan. 15, 1992. Brochure. Traveled to Geneva, Galerie Eric Franck.

1992

- Phoenix, American West Arena, ElectroSymbio-Phonics for Phoenix, permanent outdoor installation. Diisseldorf, Galerie Hans Mayer, Nam June Paik: NeueArbeiten, Jan. 15-Feb. 29.- Seoul, Hyundai Gallery, Nam June Paik: Recent Works '88-'92, July 30-Aug. 20.- Seoul, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Nam June Paik Retrospective: Videotime, Videospace, Jul. 30-Sept. 6. Catalogue, with essays by John G. Hanhardt, Wulf Herzogenrath, Taehi Kang, Hong-hee Kim, David A. Ross, and Christine van Assche, and text by Paik.- Kuniharu Akiyama. "ElectronicTechnology WillTransform the Century." Koumei Shimbun (Tokyo), Aug. 8.- Takashi Inagaki. "Nam June Paik Exposition-VideoTime/Video Space." InterCommunication (Tokyo), no. 3 (winter 1993), pp. 8-15.- NewYork, Holly Solomon Gallery, Nam June Paik: Photographs, Oct. 8-Nov. 21.- Rome, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, II Novecento di Nam June Paik: Arti elettroniche, cinema e media verso it XXI secolo, Nov. 9-29. Catalogue, with foreword by Lucio Babera, introduction by Antonina Zaru, and essays by Vittorio Fagone, Marco Maria Gazzano, and Achille Bonito Oliva.- Brooklyn, Chase MetroTech Center, The Chase Information Wall permanent Indoor sculpture, dedicated Dec.-Charles Hagen. "High-Tech Artworks Adorn High-Tech Lobbies." The New York Times, Dec. 30, pp. C7, C12.

1993

- New York, Holly Solomon Gallery, The Rehearsal for the Venice Biennale / The German Pavilion, April3-May8. Brochure.- Zurich, Sammlung Hauser & Wirth, Jardin Illumine, May 1-July 3. Catalogue, with introduction by Pipilotti Rist.- Maya Kundig. "Fernsehmenschen in Lichtergarten: DerVideokunstler Nam June Paik zeigt in einer alten Zurcher Werkhalle neueste Intallationen." CASH (Hamburg), no. 18 (May), pp. 72-73.- Hamburg, Weisser Raum, TV Bed, Fish TV, Egg Grows, Beuys Vox, Darwin, Videochandeliers '91, Neptun, May 14-July 3- Venice, XLV Biennale di Venezia, German Pavilion, Artist As Nomad, June 13-Oct. 10. Catalogue, Eine DATA Base, published by Cantz, Stuttgart, with foreword by Klaus Buf3man, essays by David Bourdon, John Canaday, Edith Decker, Vittorio Fagone, Jean-Paul Fargier, et al., and text by the artist.- Tokyo, WATARI-UM,The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Nam June Paik Recent Works: Paik Chikyuron, Sept. 8-Dec. 30. Catalogue, with essays by Arata Isozaki, Thomas Kellein, Kyung-Sung Lee, Achille Bonito Oliva, and Shizuko Watari, and text by Paik.- Takashi Nakajima. "Central Asia As the Meeting Point of the Eastern and Western Culture." Image Forum (Tokyo), no. 167 (Dec.), pp. 116-17.- Satoru Nagoya. "Korean Artist BlazesTrail of Video Art around the World." Japan Times (Tokyo), Sept. 26, p. 10.- Hiroki Fukuda. "Anticipating the Possibilities of the Media: Striding over the 'East' and 'West' with Ease." AERA (Tokyo), no. 43 (Oct.-Nov.), p. 75.- "VideoThat Lives in the Forest, Lively Humor." Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo), Oct. 19, p. 13.- Erimi Fujiwara. "Living a 'Eurasia':The King of Broadcast Media." Brutus (Tokyo), Dec. 1, p. 61.

1994

- Milan, Arengario in the Palazzo Reale, Nam June Paik: Lo Sciamano del Video, June 3-Oct. 9. Catalogue, with essays by Gino di Maggio, Vittorio Fagone, Yong-woo Lee, Henry Martin, Achille Bonito Oliva, and Dominique Stella.- Fukuoka, Japan, Fukuoka Art Museum, Nam June Paik, Aug. 30-Oct. 23. Catalogue, with essay by Jin Matsuura and text by Paik.- Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, The Electronic Super Highway: Travels with Nam June Paik, Nov. 4,1994-Jan. 15, 1995. Catalogue, with prologue by Marcella Allison, introduction by Kenworth W. Moffett, essays by Ken Friedman, John G. Hanhardt, Barbara London, Florian Matzner, Robert C. Morgan, and texts by Paik. Traveled to Indianapolis Museum of Art, Feb. 18-April 16, 1995; Columbus Museum of Art, June 11-Sept. 17, 1995; Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts, Oct. 28, 1995-Jan. 15, 1996; San Jose Museum of Art, Feb. 7-May 5,1996; San Diego, Museum of Contemporary Art, June 1-Sept. 19, 1996; Lisbon, Caixa Geral de Depositos, Culturgest, Oct. 1-Dec. 8, 1996; Kansas City, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, July 13-Sept. 14, 1997; and Honolulu Academy of Art, Nov. 6, 1997-Jan. 4, 1998.

1999

- Bremen, Kunsthalle Bremen, Nam June Paik: Fluxus/Video, Nov. 14, 1999-Jan. 23, 2000. Catalogue, with foreword by Georg Abegg and Wulf Herzogenrath, and essays by Eugen Blume, Arthus C. Caspari, Wulf Herzogenrath, and Anja

Osswald, and texts by Paik.- Niklas Maak. "DieToten Hosen des Buddha." SuddeutscheZeitung (Munich), Nov. 30, p. 17.- Nicola Kuhn. "Von Videos and anderen Dinos." Der Tagesspiegel (Berlin), Dec. 4, p.31.

2000

"The Worlds of Nam June Paik" Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

2001

Installation view "The Worlds of Nam June Paik" Museo Guggenheim Bilbao Spain

2004

Installation at Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin Germany 2004"Global Groove 2004" and "One Candle"