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Nov. 18, 2011

## Fact Sheet

### “Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image”

#### Collection Installation

“Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image”  
Nov. 18 – on view indefinitely

#### Location

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.  
Third floor, north wing

#### Description

The Smithsonian American Art Museum’s collection of video and time-based artwork examines the history and the latest developments in the art of the moving image. In 2010, the museum established a permanent-collection gallery dedicated to media arts that extends the range of contemporary art on display and allows for the presentation of the full range of media art practices. The intent of these rotating installations is to recognize the importance of the moving image in the history of 20th-century art. The current installation, the second in the series, features examples of work that has transformed video into a contemporary art practice. Single-channel videotapes are presented alongside files that have been transferred to digital formats and are projected in the gallery. Pioneering video art and key examples of American avant-garde cinema are represented, as well as recent digital media installations. These artworks illustrate the multiple media technologies that artists have engaged with since the 1960s. The nine artworks currently on view are: Jim Campbell, “Grand Central Station #2” (2009) and “Reconstruction #7” (2006); Peter Campus, “Three Transitions” (1973); Kota Ezawa, “LYAM 3D” (2008); David Haxton, “Painting Room Lights” (1980); Joan Jonas, “Vertical Roll” (1972); Bruce Nauman, “Slow Angle Walk (Beckett Walk)” (1968); Steina Vasulka and Woody Vasulka, “Reminiscence from Selected Works I” (1974); and Marina Zurkow, “Elixir II” (2009). John G. Hanhardt, senior curator for media arts, selected the works. Eight of the featured artworks were acquired for the museum’s collection in the past five years. Pieces by Campus, Robert Smithson, and Ernie Gehr and Nancy Holt will be installed in early 2012.

The media arts initiative at the museum includes acquisitions, exhibitions, educational programs and archival research resources related to film, video and the media arts. In 2009, the museum acquired the complete estate archive of visionary artist Nam June Paik. Hanhardt, the leading expert on Paik and his global influence, is organizing the archive and the museum’s Nam June Paik Media Arts Center. Research into the archive will be the basis for a series of publications of Paik’s writings, exhibitions and a catalogue raisonné. “Nam June Paik: Art and Process,” the first in a series of exhibitions, is scheduled to open Dec. 13, 2012.

#### Credit

The James F. Dicke Family Endowment generously supported “Watch This!”

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, located above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station, is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Website: [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu).

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