
PROFILE

Mr. Nam June Paik was born in Seoul. He studied music aesthetics at the School of Aesthetics and Art History, Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo. After graduation, he went to Germany to further study contemporary music. While in Germany, he met an avant-garde composer John Cage who exerted a powerful impact upon Mr. Paik. In 1959, his performance shocked the audience by destroying a piano. After the performance, he joined an avant-garde artist group Fluxus and continued to carry out a number of performances with the objective of destroying existing art. Having discovered diverse possibilities in television as a new media, Mr. Paik held his first-ever solo exhibition in 1963, using 13 TV sets and exercising video experiments with magnets. This practice later became the prototype of video art.

In the following year, Mr. Paik moved to New York, and together with another member of Fluxus and Cellist Charlotte Moorman, continued to conduct numerous surprising performances, using a cello and TV sets in many parts of the world for the next twenty years or so. During those years, Mr. Paik has gradually established his reputation and status as a visual artist. Furthermore, Mr. Paik has released unique visual art works with dazzling colors and forms one after another, fully utilizing his new video apparatus "Paik/Abe Video Synthesizer" which he developed with the help of a Japanese engineer, Shuya Abe. In the early 80's, he was at last recognized as the world's leading artist in the field. Through his creative activities, Mr. Paik has created an unparalleled visual world that is different from both photography and film and laid the foundation of video art as a new expressive area of art. Mr. Paik is now called the "Father of Video Art."

Ever since, Mr. Paik has been unfolding successive new art scenes by planning innovative art works such as video sculpture, video installation and satellite art. Satellite art links the world by communication satellite. At present, he continues to stand in the forefront of visual art.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1932 Born in Seoul
- 1956 Graduated from the School of Aesthetics and Art History, the Faculty of Letters, the University of Tokyo, and studied the history of music at Munich University
- 1959 Exhibited the first piano-smashing performance in Dusseldorf
- 1961 Joined an avant-garde artist group Fluxus
- 1963 Held the world's first art show including TV monitors, "Exposition of Music/Electronic Television"
- 1964 Moved to New York
- 1969 Developed "Paik/Abe Video Synthesizer." Produced videotape art works in succession thereafter.
- 1977 Entered his authentic installation work "TV Garden" at an international contemporary art show, "Documetnta 6"
- 1982 Held his retrospective exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Also exhibited at Paris, London and many other Western cities.
- 1984 Conducted satellite broadcast from New York and Paris
- 1988 Created an art piece called "The More The Better" for the Seoul Olympics. Broadcasted a satellite-relayed program from 12 cities of 11 nations
- 1989 Exhibited "Nam June Paik: The Family of Robot" at Fukuoka Art Museum
- 1992 Held his retrospective exhibition at the National Museum of Contemporary Art (Korea)
- 1993 Conferred the Golden Lion Award at the Venetia Biennale

MAJOR WORKS

A Tribute to John Cage, 1973

Global Groove, 1973

Video Fish, 1976

TV Garden, 1977

Vyramid, 1982

Good Morning Mr. Orwell, New York-Paris satellite relay telecast program, 1984

Bye-bye Kipling, New York-Tokyo-Seoul satellite broadcast, 1986

The More The Better, 1988

Wrap around the World, satellite broadcast from 12 cities of 11 nations

TV Buddha, 1992

MAJOR WRITINGS

Time Collage, Isshi Press, Tokyo, 1984

Asatte Light-Icarus Phoenix, Parco Press, Tokyo, 1988

Feed Back & Feed Forth, the Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 1993