

REWIND: SELECTIONS FROM THE HAROLD AND RUTH NEWMAN NEW MEDIA COLLECTION, ASIA SOCIETY MUSEUM

On view at Asia Society Museum in New York from June 9 through August 7, 2016



Asia Society presents an exhibition of new media works commemorating the institution's 60th anniversary and honoring the vision and generosity of the Newman family.

Rewind: Selections from the Harold and Ruth Newman New Media Collection, Asia Society Museum comprises a selection of new media works from the Museum's collection that illustrates the breadth

and depth of the Newman's patronage, and their support of the Museum's efforts to remain at the forefront of collecting Asian contemporary art.



Artists included in the exhibition are: **Makoto Aida, Patty Chang, Cao Fei, Akino Kondoh, Dinh Q. Lê, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Nam June Paik, Hiraki Sawa, Koki Tanaka**, and the collective **Tromarama**.



In 2007, Asia Society Museum inaugurated its contemporary art collecting program with a significant gift from the Newman family, which provided the means for the Museum to develop a solid foundation for its contemporary collection. The Harold and Ruth Newman New Media Collection comprises thirty-four objects by twenty-three artists from eight countries. These include seminal works by Cao Fei, Dinh Q. Lê, Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik, Koki Tanaka, and Yang Fudong, among many others.

The Newman gifts provided the Museum an opportunity to collect new media artworks at the highest level to continue the precedent of connoisseurship set by the gift of traditional Asian art that John D. Rockefeller 3rd made to the Museum in 1979. The collection of contemporary Asian new media art aims to broaden understanding of Asia's artistic production through the acquisition of works that demonstrate advances in new technologies, many of which were developed in Asia. To date, the collection of contemporary works includes ninety-one objects by fifty-seven artists from fourteen countries across Asia and the diaspora. It is one of the largest institutional collections of contemporary Asian new media art in the world.

“Our passion for collecting Asian art began in the 1960s when Hal began traveling to Hong Kong for business and we started acquiring Tang Dynasty tomb figures,” the Newmans write in the statement they provided for the exhibition. “Our focus on contemporary art began after we were introduced to Ah Xian’s work through the 2002 Asia Society exhibition ‘China Refigured: The Art of Ah Xian.’ As supporters of the institution since the 1980s, we were well aware of the Museum’s leading role as a champion of contemporary arts and culture from Asia and the diaspora, but we noticed a lack of support to sponsor these initiatives. Our decision to champion a focus on new media works for the contemporary collection as founding patrons was based on a keen recognition of Asia Society’s trailblazing efforts on this front.”

Harold Newman was Partner & Managing Director of Neuberger Berman, an asset management firm, prior to starting Harold J. Newman Capital LLC. With investments in China, India, Russia, and Kazakhstan, he has been investing in the Asian securities market for more than fifty years. He is Director of the Safe Water Network, which provides clean water to communities in India and Ghana. He has been a steadfast supporter of Asia Society since 1988, serving as a Trustee from 1989 to 1998 and rejoining the board in 2007. He and his wife Ruth have generously supported a variety of Asia Society initiatives including the establishment of the Museum's contemporary art collection. Aside from his Asia Society activities Mr. Newman has served as a director of the East-West Institute and the Fannie and John Hertz Foundation; as Vice Chairman of MCC, an off Broadway Theatrical Production Company; and as a member of the New York Historical Society Chairman's Council. He is also a member of the International Programs Center Board of Visitors and the Board's planning and development committee for the Institute of U.S.-China Issues, which Mr. and Mrs. Newman endowed at the University of Oklahoma. Additionally, Mr. and Mrs. Newman established The Newman Prize to recognize excellence in Chinese literature. Their first honoree, Mo Yan, subsequently received the Nobel Prize for literature in 2012. Mr. Newman received an MBA from the Harvard Business School, an MA from the School of South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and a BS in geography from the University of Oklahoma. He taught geography at The Wharton School, The University of Pennsylvania.

Ruth Newman has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Asia Society since 1985. She served on the Board from 1999 to 2007 and is currently a Trustee Emerita. She has traveled to Asia extensively under the auspices of the Asia Society, and has worked on various committees and been involved with special projects and initiatives of Asia Society. In addition to Asia Society, Mrs. Newman is on the Board of the Hunter College

Foundation where she was recently elected to the Hunter College Hall of Fame. She also sits on the Board of the American Ballet Theater, The Fred Jones, Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma, and Ofanim, an Israeli educational organization that brings 21st century technology to the underserved students in the Israeli periphery.

About Asia Society Museum

[Asia Society Museum](#) presents a wide range of traditional, modern, and contemporary exhibitions of Asian and Asian American art, taking new approaches to familiar masterpieces and introducing under-recognized arts and artists. The Asia Society Museum Collection comprises a traditional art collection, composed of the initial bequests of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, and a contemporary art collection focused on new media.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational institution headquartered in New York with new state-of-the-art cultural centers and gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Houston, and offices in Los Angeles, Manila, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, Washington, D.C., and Zurich.

Asia Society Museum is located at 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), New York City. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Friday from 11:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Closed on Mondays and major holidays. General admission is \$12, seniors \$10, students \$7; free for members and persons under 16. Free admission Friday evenings, 6:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M. The Museum is closed Fridays after 6:00 P.M. in July and August.

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Captions: Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba (b. 1968, Japan). *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam: Towards the Complex—For the Courageous, the Curious, and the Cowards*, 2001. Single-channel video projection with sound. Asia Society, New York: Gift of Harold and Ruth Newman, 2008.4. Courtesy of the artist.

Cao Fei. *i.Mirror by China Tracy (AKA: Cao Fei) Second Life Documentary Film*, 2007. Single-channel video with sound. Duration: 28 minutes. Asia Society, New York: Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Ruth Newman, 2011.9. Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space

Tromarama. *Everyone is Everybody*, 2012. Single-channel stop-motion animation with sound; vocals by Yori Papilaya, Lidyawati, Yasmina Yustiviani; music by Hendra Budiman; lyrics by Tromarama. Duration: 3 minutes, 35 seconds. Asia Society, New York: Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Ruth Newman, 2014.7. Courtesy of the artist