



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the George Tsutakawa in Japan Video Project, 1988-1990, in the Archives of American Art

Tim Lake

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	George Tsutakawa in Japan video project
Date:	1988-1990
Identifier:	AAA.tsutgeor
Creator:	Tsutakawa, George
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and Japanese.
Summary:	The George Tsutakawa in Japan video project measures 4 linear feet and contains unedited video recordings of Tsutakawa's return trip to his childhood home in central Japan. The recordings, made by the West Coast Regional Center of the Archives of American Art in 1988, were subsequently edited into the 23-minute documentary <i>George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage</i> , also included in this collection.

Administrative Information

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview recorded on video June 26-27, 1987 by his daughter Mayumi Tsutakawa, as well as the George Tsutakawa papers, 1953-1991.

Available Formats

Some of the video recordings in this collection have been copied for research access and digital copies are available in the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Tim Lake in 2019.

Preferred Citation

George Tsutakawa in Japan video project, 1988-1990. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

George Tsutakawa (1910-1997) was a Japanese American painter and sculptor based in Seattle, Washington. Born in Seattle in 1910, he moved with his mother to Fukuyama, Japan, at the age of seven. While there, he took an interest in art, and was influenced by traditional Japanese practices. Returning to Seattle at age 16, he continued his education in art at the University of Washington. His interest in sculpture led to numerous commissions for fountains worldwide, a form that combined his experiences in both the Pacific Northwest and Japan. During his career, Tsutakawa designed, built, and installed over 70 fountains.

Following a 1987 interview with Tsutakawa conducted by the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, the Archives' West Coast Regional Center took the opportunity to further document Tsutakawa's experience as a Japanese-American artist. Fourteen hours of video were recorded over a three-week period in the fall of 1988, centered around the *Fountain of Lotus*, a sculpture Tsutakawa was commissioned to design for a new art museum in his childhood home of Fukuyama, Japan. Tsutakawa is accompanied by members of his family, including his wife Ayame, his daughter Mayumi, and his son Gerard.

The video crew for this project included Paul Karlstrom (Archives of American Art West Coast regional director), Ken Levine (director and videographer), and Dan Gadd (videographer). The project was made possible by a Smithsonian Research Opportunities Grant and additional private donations, as well as an equipment loan from Sony.

Scope and Contents

The George Tsutakawa in Japan video project measures 4 linear feet and contains unedited video recordings of Tsutakawa's return trip to his childhood home in central Japan. The recordings, made by the West Coast Regional Center of the Archives of American Art in 1988, were subsequently edited into the 23-minute documentary *George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage*, also included in this collection.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: Unedited Video for Documentary, 1988 (3.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-4)
 - Series 2: George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage, 1990 (3 folders; Box 4)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Asian American art

Asian American artists
Asian American educators
Asian American painters
Asian American sculptors
Japanese American art
Japanese American artists

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Video recordings

Names:

Archives of American Art
Gadd, Dan
Karlstrom, Paul J.
Levine, Ken M.

Occupations:

Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle
Sculptors -- Washington (State) -- Seattle

Container Listing

Series 1: Unedited Video for Documentary, 1988

33 Folders

Scope and Contents: This series contains 14 hours of unedited video recordings that chronicle Tsutakawa's journey from Seattle to central Japan to install his sculpture *Fountain of Lotus*, commissioned for the city of Fukuyama's new museum of art. The bulk of this content is original camera footage shot on location in Fukuyama, Kurashiki, Takamatsu, Seto Bridge Inland Sea, Kyoto, Adachi Museum, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. There is additional footage from a Hiroshima news segment broadcast at the time of the sculpture's dedication. All unedited video was recorded in 1988, and was then edited into a documentary *George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage* in 1990.

Arrangement: Camera-original betacam recordings are arranged at the beginning of this series, and are sequenced chronologically. Duplicate U-matic videocassettes are arranged after the original Betacam videocassettes.

Restrictions: Archival audiovisual recordings must be digitized for research access. Researchers may access digitized audiovisual materials in the Archives' Washington, D.C. or New York, N.Y. Research Centers by appointment.

Available Formats: There are two sets of duplicate U-matic videocassettes, including one set with visible time code and one set without.

Box 1, Folder 1	Seattle Sculpture Party, 1988 September 16 3 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Fukuyama Fountain Installation, 1988 October 19-20 4 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 1, Folder 3	Fukuyama Fountain Banquet, 1988 October 20 1 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Kurashiki Museum, Seto Bridge Inland Sea, Takamatsu, 1988 October 21-22 5 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 1, Folder 6-8	Kyoto, 1988 October 24 7 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Adachi Museum of Art, Paper-making, Hiroshima, 1988 October 27-30 5 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 2, Folder 1	Return to Fukuyama, 1988 November 1 1 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Fukuyama Fountain Dedication, 1988 November 2 2 Videocassettes (Betacam)
Box 2, Folder 2	Tokyo, 1988 November 4

1 Videocassettes (Betacam)

Box 2, Folder 3	Hiroshima Television news story, 1988 October 19 - November 4 1 Videocassettes (Betacam) Notes: This broadcast segment includes an interview with Tsutakawa (in Japanese) at the time of the sculpture dedication.
Box 2, Folder 4-10	Duplicates, 1988 7 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 3, Folder 1-9	Duplicates, 1988 9 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 4, Folder 1-5	Duplicates, 1988 5 Videocassettes (U-matic)

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Series 2: *George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage*, 1990

3 Folders

Scope and Contents: This series contains multiple copies of *George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage*. This 23-minute documentary is the finished video that utilizes the content from the unedited video series, as well as footage from the video oral history with George Tsutakawa, recorded for the Archives of American Art oral history program in 1987. It documents Tsutakawa's journey to Japan, centered on the installation and dedication of his sculpture *Fountain of Lotus*, in Fukuyama. Directed and produced by the Archives of American Art West Coast Regional Center in 1988, Tsutakawa discusses childhood memories, important regional artists, Japanese cultural traditions, and his experience as a Japanese American. Locations include Seattle (documenting a "farewell" party for the sculpture), Fukuyama, Kurashiki, Seto Bridge Inland Sea, Takamatsu, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Adachi Museum of Art, and Tokyo.

Available Formats: This video recording has been digitized for research access.

Restrictions: Researchers may access digitized audiovisual materials in the Archives' Washington, D.C. or New York, N.Y. Research Centers by appointment.

Box 4, Folder 6-8 *George Tsutakawa: An Artist's Pilgrimage*
2 Videocassettes (VHS)
2 Videocassettes (U-matic)

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