Japanese Video: Remembering An Art Of Memory

By Alfred Birnbaum

In time for the opening of the 3rd Fukuoka International Video Biennale (March 13-21, Fukuoka Art Museum, 5-21-10 Watanabe, 81-770, Japan; tel. 09-86-55-01) and the video installation that will be part of the Human Hands, a silk thread connects the relationship between the two. On the one hand, the Biennale will provide an opportunity to showcase the latest trends in video art, while on the other, the installation will aim to evoke a sense of nostalgia for the medium's early days.

Japan, the Land of Video — or is it? When was the last time you watched a video that moved you as much as the first time you saw one? Creative devices in the video world are now almost a part of our daily lives, but there was a time when the medium was considered a novelty, something that could be experienced only in special settings.

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In this camtry of working with vivid and rich images, the video generation was immediately aware of the potential of the medium. Artists were eager to experiment with new forms of expression, and video quickly became a tool for visual storytelling.

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