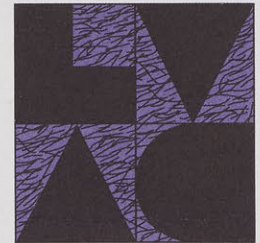


N E W S R E L E A S E

MICHIKO KON PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE SHOWN AT MIT
FIRST UNITED STATES MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Michiko Kon, a young Japanese photographer, will be showing 30 large black and white prints in her first museum exhibition in the United States. The exhibition will open on October 9 with a preview reception from 5 to 7 pm, and will continue through November 22, 1992.

Kon's photos are strange, elegant and slightly surreal still lifes. The photographic approach is deadpan documentary. This mischief resides in the arrangements themselves, which combine dumb and inorganic objects of everyday life -- hats, chairs, undergarments -- with equally familiar but organic materials ranging from flowers to vegetables to raw fish. The implication of inevitable decay make these photographs into stark and powerful contemporary *mementos mori*.

The print quality of these dark and dramatic tableaux is exquisite and seductive, balancing luscious blacks with a variety of sheens and textures. The prints mimic the fastidious presentation techniques of food and fashion photography which is carefully calculated to incite desire in the viewer. Yet the allure of these objects is undercut by the materials of their construction; imagine the cool clamminess of a fish-flesh fedora or the slippery flagellation of lingerie whose lace is composed of small herrings and safety pins.

Educational Event

Dana Friis-Hansen, former List Art Center Curator, and now a curator and writer living in Tokyo, will give a slide lecture on **Contemporary Japanese Photography** on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:30 pm in the Bartos Theater of the List Art Center.

An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition will be available at the gallery desk or by mail.

For further information or photographs call Ron Platt at (617) 253-4400.

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, MIT E15-109, 20 Ames Street in Cambridge, a 5-minute walk from the Kendall Square T stop. All exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours 12 - 6 weekdays; 1 to 5 weekends. Closed October 12 and November 11. Gallery telephone (617) 253-4680.