

*press release*

**Mariko Mori Pure Land**

*19 January -24 March 2002*

*Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Temporary Exhibit Space 1F&B2F*

*The exhibition is co-curated and co-organized by*

*the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo and the Fondazione Prada, Milan*

Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo and Fondazione Prada, Milan are pleased to present a solo exhibition of Mariko Mori.

Her first major solo show in Japan, it presents her output from the early photographic works realized in 1994 until the most recent ones. The exhibition is conceived by the artist as an imaginary journey that should be undertaken by the visitor in order to attain a higher level of knowledge.

Among the first of her works presented are large photographs depicting metropolitan situations, such as *Tea Ceremony III* (1994) and *Empty Dream* (1995), and those representing a fantastic vision, such as *Burning Desire*, *Mirror of Water*, *Entropy of Love* and *Pure Land* (1996-98). The show continues with *Nirvana* (1997) a 3-D video installation, *Kumano* (1998) a video projection, *Alaya* (1998) a corpus of thirty-two watercolor drawings, a sculpture entitled *Enlightenment Capsule* (1998) and a recent work *Miracle* (2001). The core of the exhibition consists of two complex and monumental installations: the visionary spaces of *Garden of Purification* (1999) and of *Dream Temple* (1999). *Garden of Purification* is a huge closed space with an almost sacred impact intended to nullify the conventional relationship between interior and exterior. Through the *Garden* people reach the space of meditation, while the remarkable multimedia architecture of the *Dream Temple*, a work of global art realized by an original fusion of scientific and mystic knowledge, helps them to seek a higher spiritual awareness.

Mariko Mori began producing artworks actively in the mid-1990s, appearing in costumes of her own design in large-scale photographs and performing various roles as a young woman in contemporary urban space. These innovative works, sometimes expressing a critical view of society and sometimes acting as allegories, have quickly made her the most promising young Japanese artist. She went on to make major

changes in her style and expand the boundaries of expression, using the latest technology to make three-dimensional images and three-dimensional objects incorporating optical fibers. Much of her subject matter, for example, in works like *Nirvana* and *Dream Temple*, is taken from traditional Japanese culture.

Mori's art, while based on profound thoughts, displays a sense of freedom in media and imagery appropriate to her generation. Her images have a rich and fascinating beauty that gives great pleasure to the viewer. Mori has presented her work throughout the world to great acclaim, but at bottom it is rooted in careful observation and deep understanding of Japanese society and culture. It should be especially meaningful to Japanese viewers because it gives them an opportunity to re-examine their own society and culture.

Mariko Mori has caused a sensation and received a warm welcome wherever she has appeared all over the world, whether in international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale and the Lyon Biennial or solo exhibitions at the Pompidou Center in Paris, the Serpentine Gallery in London, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and the Fondazione Prada, Milan, but until now she has never had a major exhibition in Japan.

Curated and organized by:

Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo  
Fondazione Prada, Milan

Date: Sat. 19 January - Sun. 24 March 2002

Closed on Mondays

Location: Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo

Temporary Exhibition space 1F&B2F

Hours: 10:00 - 18:00 (Fridays - 21:00)

No admission 30 mins. prior to closing

Supported by: The Yomiuri Shimbun

Obayashi Corporation

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Access: Take the bus for Kinshicho-eki or Tokyo-to Gendai Bijutukan  
(*Higashi-no.20*) from Tokyo sta. Get off at the Tokyo-to Gendai  
Bijutukan mae bus stop.

13 minute's walk from Kiyosumi-Shirakawa sta., subway O-edo line.

15 minute's walk or take the bus for Narihira-Bashi (*Nari-no.10*)  
from Kiba-sta., subway Tozai-line. Get off at the bus stop, Tokyo-to  
Gendai Bijutukan-Mae bus stop.

Curators: Junichi Shioda, Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo

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