noguchi

Noguchi Museum Announces Launch of Multimedia Collection

Newly digitized film, video, and audio recordings from Isamu Noguchi's lifetime are now available to browse in the artist's digital archive


Unedited silent 16mm footage of Isamu Noguchi's fountains in action at Expo '70, Osaka, Japan. Arnold Eagle, c. 1970. The Noguchi Museum Archives, AV_F16_032_c1970. © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum / ARS

New York, NY (November 17, 2021) — The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum announces a significant expansion of the digital **Isamu Noguchi Archive** with the publication of its Multimedia Collection. This trove of film footage, video, and audio recordings of artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988) comprises the final series within the artist's personal archive which has been digitized and made accessible to the public in a multiyear project.

The Isamu Noguchi Archive was first launched online in November 2019. This newest release adds 120 video and audio clips (with 207 more to be added in coming months) generated from digitized film reels, videotapes, and audiocassettes. These capture Isamu Noguchi at work, giving lectures and interviews, visiting project sites, and more.

"The release of this newly digitized collection completes our goal of full digital access to all of our archival holdings from the Isamu Noguchi research collection. It marks the first time researchers will have such extensive access to Noguchi describing his work and fascinating
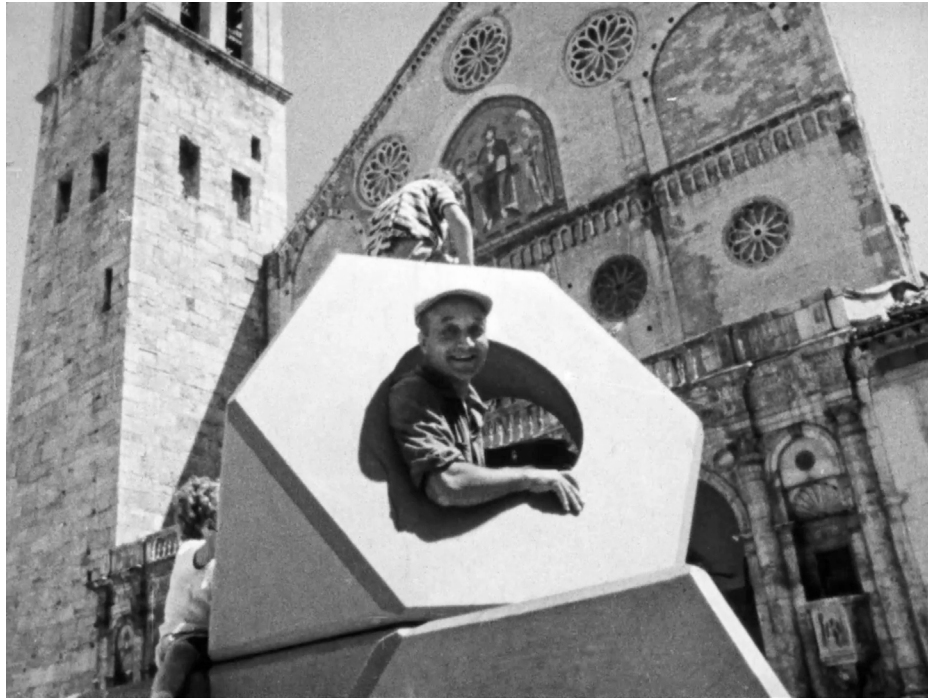
Isamu Noguchi in Spoleto, Italy, sent to Noguchi from Dimitri Hadzi. Dimitri Hadzi, 1968.
The Noguchi Museum Archives, AV_F16_005_1968. © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum / ARS

life in his own voice, and actively moving through space and time in context with his artworks worldwide," states Janine Biunno, Noguchi Museum Archivist.

Brett Littman, Noguchi Museum Director, states, "Isamu Noguchi's ideas and work become only more resonant as time moves on. In making these audiovisual materials widely accessible, we hope to facilitate a more direct appreciation and understanding of Isamu Noguchi as an artist, a world citizen, and as a human being in all of his complexities, and encourage meaningful discussions and insights. We are grateful to the creators of these films and recordings, to the staff and technical collaborators who brought this project to life, and for the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Henry Luce Foundation, and others who help make the preservation and stewardship of these resources possible."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION

Notable materials in the Multimedia Collection include a complete hour-long documentary on Isamu Noguchi produced by Bruce Bassett and Whitgate Productions, Ltd. in 1980 (**AV_1VT_006_1980**), and additional film footage from *A Sculptor's World* (1973) by Arnold Eagle (**AV_F16_039_c1970**). Subjects include: interviews with the artist in his Long Island City studio (**AV_MAR_001A_1971**), speaking on his relationship with artist Frida Kahlo for National Public Radio (**AV_MAR_012_1988**), and working on stone sculptures at Henraux in Querceta, Italy (**AV_F16_029_c1970**); views of his fountains in action for Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan (**AV_F16_032_c1970**); excerpts from six dances choreographed by Martha Graham with Noguchi's set designs (**AV_1VT_004_1988**); and much more.

THE ISAMU NOGUCHI ARCHIVE

Representing the artist's complete extant personal archives, the overall holdings of the Isamu Noguchi Archive include over 60,000 items, including 28,000 photographs documenting Noguchi's artworks, exhibitions, studios, the influential figures he knew and worked with, and personal photographs documenting his global travels. Other materials include correspondence, exhibition and project records, press clippings, and architectural drawings and plans, as well as extensive documentation of objects and artifacts that Noguchi collected during his lifetime. **archive.noguchi.org**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Isamu Noguchi Archive was catalogued, digitized, and made public with the leadership support of the Henry Luce Foundation. As part of its Bloomberg Connects app initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies generously supported the assessment, stabilization, and digitization of the Multimedia Collection. An additional collection of audiocassettes and other analogue tape format recordings were digitized with support from the Pohanka Family Foundation.

CONTRIBUTORS

Technical development and collaboration for the Isamu Noguchi Archive has been provided by Whirl-i-Gig, creators of the collection management software CollectiveAccess. Visual design and front-end development for the Noguchi Museum's websites has been provided by For Office Use Only. Digitization for the Multimedia Collection was provided by BB Optics. Additional audio digitization has been provided by George Blood L.P.

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises two floors of gallery space in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist's archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative installations drawn from the collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator. **noguchi.org** | **@noguchimuseum**

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