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Japan Society Gallery, New York
"Fast Futures" – Asian Video Art
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Joining several museums, galleries, and contemporary art spaces in this city-wide exhibition of single channel video works by leading and emerging Asian artists, Japan Society exhibits works produced by Bea Camacho, Hiraki Sawa, and Koki Tanaka.

These three artists were selected by Eleni Cocordas, Interim Director of Gallery Affairs, and Yoko Shioya, Director of Performing Arts and Film Program Operations from among 38 participants in the ACAW Video Program, juried by Melissa Chiu, Asia Society Museum Director, Yu Yeon Kim, independent curator, and Barbara London, Associate Curator of Film and Media at MoMA.

The three artists featured in Japan Society's exhibition capture the rapturous and sometimes peculiar beauty of intricate repetition, introspection and routine. In *Enclose*, Bea Camacho (The Philippines) documents the 11 hours it took to literally crochet herself into a cocoon of bright red yarn. Hiraki Sawa (Japan), who recently exhibited his work at The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, exposes surprise elements within a seemingly barren household terrain in his video, *Trail*. Koki Tanaka (Japan) offers seven short, often-lively works that encapsulate the immensity of infinity.

Bea Camacho's *Enclose* (2004), single channel video, 11hrs; video still courtesy of the artist

Bea Camacho graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College. She works with sculpture, performance and installation in order to explore issues concerning distance and disconnection in relation to absence and intimacy. In an interview with crochetlab.com, she stated that, "When I started working on [*Enclose*], I was interested in hiding spaces and creating my own environment... I wanted to refer to ideas of fear and protection by slowly producing a safe space for myself... I was improvising the form and constantly trying to figure out which parts needed to join up in order to have it close around me with the least amount of excess."

Born in 1977 in Ishikawa, Japan, Hiraki Sawa lives and works in London, exhibiting his works worldwide in countries including the United Kingdom, Japan, United States, Mexico, France, and Germany. "Artificial landscapes, unexpected worlds, domestic and imaginary spaces interwoven, presences both felt and remembered—my present preoccupation is with those things that can be seen in the corners, on the edges, in between and beyond," Sawa says. "In *Trail*, the shadows in hidden corners and spaces of my flat slowly reveal other migrating shadows, traces of birds circling overhead in slow motion, a Ferris wheel endlessly turning, camels and elephants passing at a rhythm entirely their own—a waltz disappearing."

Born in Tochigi, Japan in 1975, Koki Tanaka received his B.F.A degree from Tokyo Zokei University in 2000. Often defined by rhythmic looping of short sequences, he is a mixed-media artist who uses video and found objects to create iconic reflections of everyday life. Along with a residency at Location One, recent exhibitions include: Contemporary Art Center in Mito, Japan; Institut fur Gegenwartskunst an der Akademie des Bildenden Kunste, Vienna, Austria; MIT List Visual Art Center, Massachusetts; and other locations worldwide. When discussing the work, Tanaka notes, "When we come across something immense, we feel there is no beginning or end. There is history in this world—history being the art of classifying the past from the present—but of course no one can witness it from its very beginning to its ending. History is always 'now-here' (unless, of course, time travel becomes possible!) With the emergence of digital technology, however, infinity has become an everyday affair."