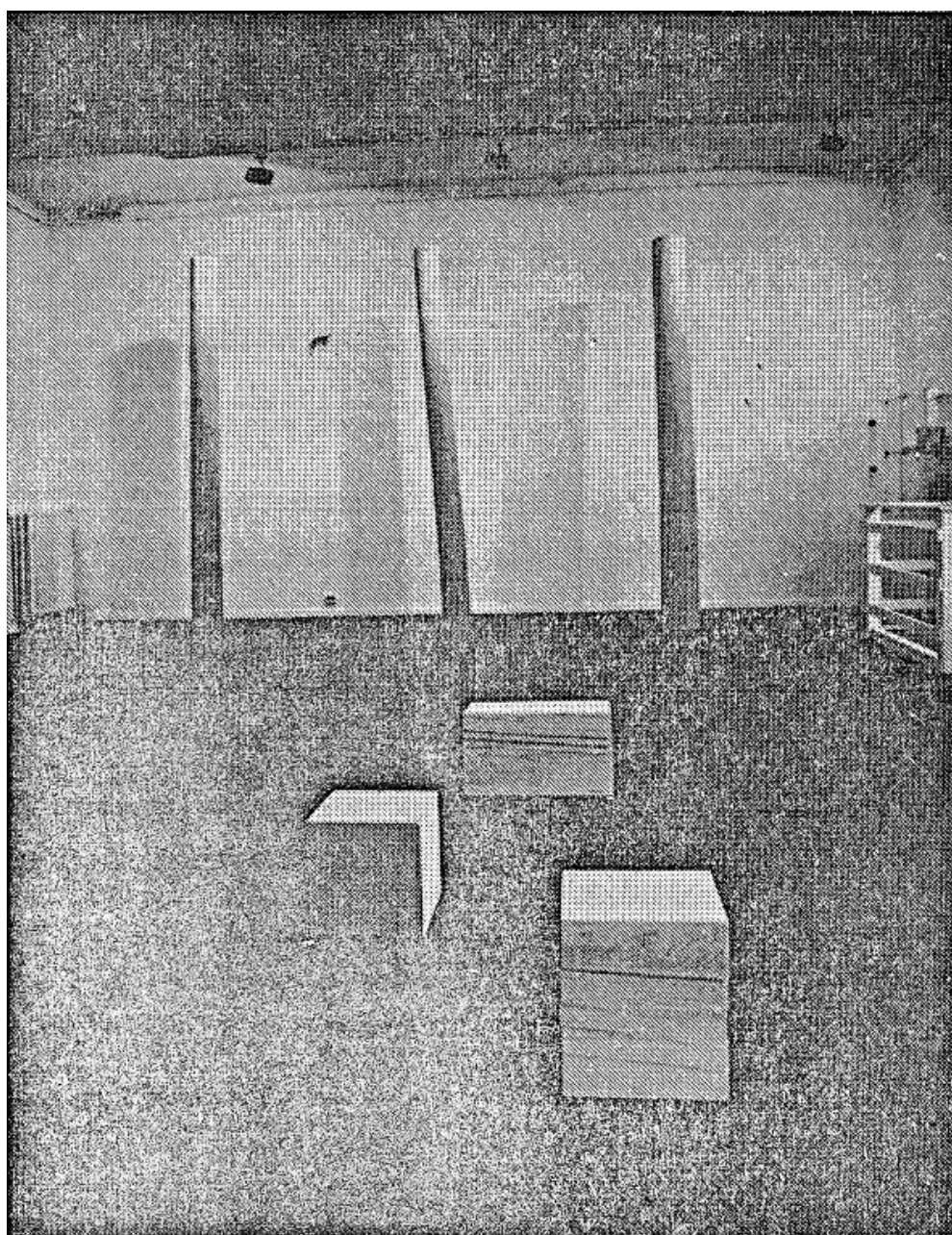


Elegance and simplicity in modern art from Japan



Wood sculptures by Kazuo Kadonaga in Nouvelles Images in The Hague

(photo Bas Roodnat)

Exhibition: Contemporary Japanese art.
Until August 30 in gallery Nouvelles
Images, Westeinde 22, The Hague.
Opened Tues. until Sat. from
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

By BAS ROODNAT

THE HAGUE, July 9 - What the uneducated path in this matter. what is usually known about Japanese art is that all kinds of motifs derived from religion, history and tradition occur in highly stylized forms. Easy. ness and clarity would be characteristic of bee. example the visual arts. people in this Asian country, which has maintained numerous cultural ties with the west, especially since the Second World War. Beauty and refinement, one gets the impression here, play such an important role in Japan that the boundaries between them. seb arts and crafts and kun. to pull less sharply. There are then in Europe and America: the design of gardens, flower arranging and also the artistic attention to the scripts go into meaning and pretense. going beyond corresponding activities on this side of the world.

An exhibition is currently traveling through Germany. theorem around, dedicated to the Japanese art of packaging. Because that is how one may call the hundreds of form variants in which all kinds of commercial products are presented. This exhibition supports the suspicion that there is visual art. stones in their applied form have a major impact on everyone's everyday environment. ,

The catalog of the ver. packing exhibition is part of the documentation. material from an exhibition at the Hague gallery Nouvel. les Images up to and including August 29 at Westeinde 22. Work by nineteen modern Japanese artists will be on display: paintings, plastics, textile forms, photography, architecture. It is striking that of these nineteen six now live in the west and that the others differ in their work. loins

on this side of the globe. The leading moder. ne Japanese visual art went down with some greedy. all kinds of international in. floods, perhaps in response to a history of many centuries of isolation. certainly since the Second We. World war came to an abrupt end. Surrealism, pop art, performances were all influences. genes, which were quickly collected. gen, especially after a major in in Tokyo in the 1950s. international art exhibition was organized. Synthesis Anyone who now walks through the halls of Nouvelles Images gets the impression of being able to perceive all these influences and also be able to establish a synthesis. between western conceptions. and the old Japanese style of simplicity and clarity.

The work has a direct appeal, is elegant and largely has clear decorative intentions. They are accen. of shape and color. atmosphere and good taste. Its craftsmanship is hidden in the playfulness of the approach. This applies in particular to the wood sculptures of Kazuo Kadonaga, who splits tree trunks and blocks of wood, reassembles them and thus achieves results in which the natural logic of grain and other grown structures. get great visual attention. Only after a good look does one realize the accuracy. ness and expertise, which for apparently such a. simple interventions needed. run. You can do about the same. said of the granie. marble and bronze sculptures by Jiro Sugawa ra: elegant shapes, connecting. to the grown environment of a garden, in which they would fit perfectly. The paintings shown are mainly monochromes and decoratively processed geome. trical figures. Here, too, simplicity and immediacy of quickly suitable color and shape. Undoubtedly, in the pieces shown in The Hague, all sorts of Japanese thoughts go. hides signals derived from the world that elude us. That does not alter the fact that the work is international enough to make strings vibrate in the Western soul as well.

