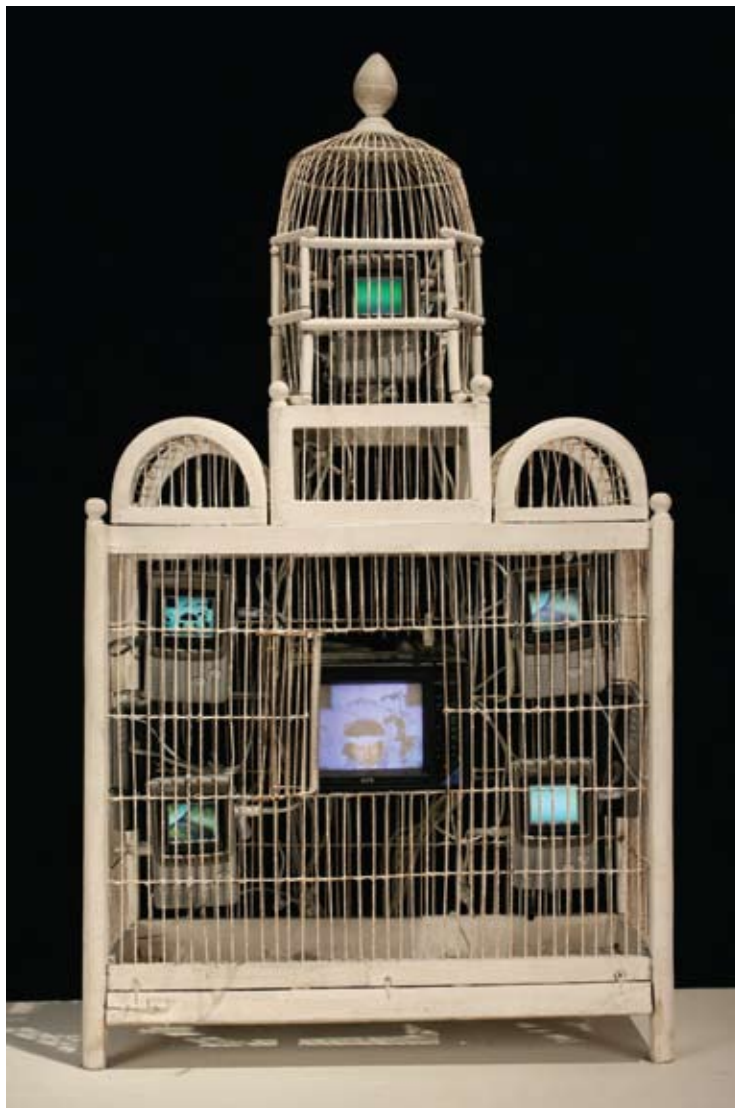


1-1-2006

Nam June Paik, Cage in Cage, 1994

Michael Gillespie
Marquette University

Published version. "Nam June Paik, Cage in Cage, 1994," in *Perspectives on Art at the Haggerty Museum*. Milwaukee, WI: Haggerty Museum of Art, 2006: 56-57. [Publisher link](#). © 2006 Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University. Used with permission.



Nam June Paik
Korean (1932-2006)
Cage in Cage, 1994
Mixed media
39 x 21 ½ x 15 in.

Museum Purchase, The David C. Scott Foundation Fund, 94.14

Cage in Cage: An Emblematic Reminder



Jesuit education is founded on the Humanities. The Humanities, in turn, are vivified by the Fine Arts. If for no other reason than this, the Haggerty Art Museum stands at the heart of our university. It provides space for members of the Marquette University community to renew their sense of the diverse beauty and wonder that forms the imaginative life. It engages without prescribing, and it enlightens without baffling. Without the Haggerty, Marquette would be far less fulfilled.

Nam June Paik's 1994 multimedia piece, *Cage in Cage*, stands as a prime example of the power of the Haggerty to touch visitors. Paik's homage to the American composer John Cage is both playful and profound. Unabashedly punning, it takes the form of a Victorian bird cage filled with video monitors showing footage of Cage's performance *4'33* and Paik's *TV-Cello*. Its whimsical nature is immediately evident, but as one examines the monitors, watching them play off one another in the context of the bird cage, the nonlinearity of the experience opens the viewer to a range of impressions.

Cage in Cage wonderfully captures the way, even with an experience upon which one seemingly directs full attention, multiple perceptions inform one's total impression and give a dynamic quality to the aesthetic experience. Paik's piece reflects in a subtle fashion the beauty of the human mind functioning in a humanist environment. It shows the ability to concentrate attention without privileging narrow, exclusionary views. In this fashion *Cage in Cage* offers a gentle reminder of the strength of Jesuit education.

Michael Patrick Gillespie, Ph.D.
Louise Edna Goeden Professor of English
Department of English