

# THE VASULKAS

## 'A SO DESU KA'

'A SO DESU KA' conjures up visions of a cyber-punk robot who has overdosed on too much soy-sauce and who ravenously swallows up Japanese icons like so much sushi on an assembly line. Steina's visual epiphany presents Japan as a culture which appears to be physically collapsing in upon itself, as it abandons its own values and traditions and rushes headlong at lightning speed towards its own destruction, like a moth to a flame. If one thinks of the serenity of feudal Japan, this humorous and slightly cynical evaluation of the Japanese presents a 'nation of warriors' who have turned into a 'nation of worriers'! This rigorous and beautiful work neatly and efficiently delivers 'Japan' to the viewer, in a ritualistic and mechanized fashion which reminds one of riding the Shinkansen 'bullet train' from one end of the country to the other.

Ernest Gusella and Tomiyo Sasaki  
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Her compositional devices include flipping or reversing an image (right becomes left) and playing it at imperceptibly different speeds on different screens, which gradually all synchronize at the same speed. These strategies are especially effective in the final movement when the female dancer is bowing. The ~~Steina~~ waltz the dancers use would be something at once exotic and poignant.

LENAR

- GENE YOUNGBLOOD