



# *James Casebere and Landscape with Houses*

Rima Yamazaki

Rima Yamazaki is an independent documentary filmmaker specializing in contemporary art and architecture. Her practice is an exploration of cinematic expression in documenting, studying and reflecting on the arts. She works as a one-person film crew; all her films are directed, photographed and edited by herself. Her films have been shown at various film festivals and venues internationally. She received a BA in Social Sciences from Hitotsubashi University in 2005, and a BA in Film from Hunter College in 2008. She currently lives and works in New York.

Since the mid-1970s, James Casebere has been making photographs of tabletop models which he builds in his studio. The subject of his work ranges from suburban interiors to institutional structures, inspired by political events and social issues. In his photographs, these models often give the impression of reality. Each image transports viewers into ambiguous environment, evoking a sense of emotional place. For this documentary, the filmmaker visited the artist's studio in Brooklyn on a regular basis from the spring of 2009 to the fall of 2010, and documented the process of making the series titled "Landscape with Houses," for which he built the largest model to date. As the subprime mortgage crisis occurred, Casebere became interested in American suburban neighborhoods and started building



a model of an American suburban landscape. The film mainly consists of the sequences shot in an observational style and a sit-down interview conducted in May 2010.

## About VDB TV

Launched in 2015, VDB TV is an innovative digital distribution project which provides free, online streaming access to curated programs of video and media art.

Sourced from the historically significant archives of the Video Data Bank, VDB TV includes work from early video pioneers active in the 1960s and 70s, through to emerging contemporary artists. VDB TV offers viewers across the United States and beyond access to rare video art, the opportunity to engage with programs conceived by a wide range of curators, and original writing, all while ensuring that artists are compensated for their work.



*James Casebere and Landscape with Houses, Rima Yamazaki (2011)*