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Arts Beat

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SoHo in Tokyo

Last September Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was in hot water for remarks about American blacks. And now, a year later, an art show featuring several prominent Washington-area artists is opening in Tokyo's SoHo-like harbor district. A coincidence? "No, this is not a reaction to the prime minister's remarks," says David Jackson of Overseas Promotions Inc., the Japanese-owned company that is sponsoring the show, "The Art of Black America in Japan," which opens Thursday. The show includes a retrospective of Afro-American modernists from 1937 to 1987, which has been curated by David Driskell of the University of Maryland. Area artists represented include Sam Gilliam, Lois Mailou Jones, Sylvia Snowden, Keith Morrison, William H. Johnson and Norman Lewis.