MIT List Visual Arts Center

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Lebbeus Woods' visionary architectural drawings and models at the List Visual Arts Center



The List Visual Arts Center presents **Terra Nova: Drawings and Models by Lebbeus Woods**, from May 9 to June 30, 1992. A public opening reception for the artist will be held on Friday, May 8 from 5 to 7 pm. Woods is an experimental architect who creates radically new, utopian spaces as a means of exploring alternative ways for contemporary societies to live. Noted architectural critic Michael Sorkin has called Woods, "our most fecund visionary - a futurist whose notions of the ideal city stretch architecture to its technological and philosophical limits".

The exhibition is composed of colored pencil drawings and wildly inventive models from several projects developed during the past decade, including: *Berlin-Free-Zone* (1990), designs for the reconstruction of a unified Berlin; *Aerial Paris* (1989), designs for a web of permanently floating living-working spaces above Paris, and *Zagreb-Free-Zone*, a mobile troupe of cone-like shelters. Woods is concerned not merely with building, but with the conceptual and philosophical components of contemporary architecture as well.

Since 1976 Woods has lived in New York City, where he concentrates on architectural theory, experimental projects and teaching. In 1988 he founded, with Olive Brown, the Research Institute for Experimental Architecture (RIEA), a non-profit organization for the advancement of architecture through experimentation and research. Currently he is visiting professor of design at the Cooper Union and the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture. Woods has exhibited widely in Europe, but his work until recently has been little known in the United States. Woods has received several major design and architecture awards, including, The American Institute of Architects 1991 Institute Honor, and fellowship awards from the New York Foundation for the

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Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts in 1990 and 1991. This summer Woods' conceptual architecture designs will be featured in the 20th Century Fox film *Aliens III*. Critic Aaron Betsky states that Woods' "seductive images show us a strange world that defies gravity, hierarchy and function."

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Terra Nova: Drawings and Models by Lebbeus Woods was organized by Diana DuPont, curator of exhibitions at the University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach. A full-color exhibition brochure is available at the gallery desk or by mail. The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building at 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, a five minute walk from the Kendall Square Red Line T Station. All List Visual Arts Center exhibitions and related events are free and open to the public. For further information and/or publicity materials contact Ron Platt.