

MIT List Visual Arts Center

PRESS RELEASE

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List Projects: Adam Pendleton

Bakalar Gallery

On view: January 3 – February 11, 2018

Cambridge, MA–December 14, 2017. The MIT List Visual Arts Center’s next iteration of its List Projects exhibition series features Adam Pendleton and his video portrait *Just Back from Los Angeles: A Portrait of Yvonne Rainer* (2016–17). Adam Pendleton’s multi-disciplinary practice across painting, sculpture, video, and performance searches for “radical juxtapositions.” Appropriating found images and text, Pendleton brings together often divergent ideas to destabilize the present and envision new aesthetic, cultural, and political futures. Since 2008, Pendleton’s fragmentary, visionary process has been driven by a conceptual paradigm the artist termed “Black Dada,” which takes inspiration from Amiri Baraka’s 1964 poem “Black Dada Nihilismus.”

Just Back from Los Angeles: A Portrait of Yvonne Rainer centers around a meal Pendleton and Rainer share at a New York City diner. Over the course of their meal, the video records their unscripted conversation punctuated by poignant moments when each artist leads the other. Rainer leads Pendleton in partnered movement exercises. Pendleton invites Rainer to read from a script which combines writing from her published works with accounts and discussions of inequality, racism, and anti-black violence by such voices as Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm X, and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. Including footage of Rainer’s landmark dance *Trio A* (1966), *Just Back from Los Angeles* stages an inter-generational dialogue across lines of sexual and racial difference, provoking critical inquiry into the artists’ shared questions of poetics and politics. The exhibition will also include an installation of silkscreened mirror and glass works from Pendleton’s ongoing series *System of Display* (2008–).

Adam Pendleton (b. 1984, Richmond, VA) was the subject of a recent solo survey exhibition organized by the Contemporary Art Center New Orleans entitled *Adam Pendleton: Becoming Imperceptible*, which also traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland. Pendleton’s solo and group presentations include the Belgian Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015), the 11th Gwangju Biennale (2016), and Performa 07 (2007), as well as exhibitions at Kunsthalle Wien (2017), the Baltimore Museum of Art (2017), Tensta Konsthall (2016), and Whitechapel Gallery (2015), among others. His work is included in several public collections including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; and the Tate, London. The artist lives and works in New York.



Just Back from Los Angeles: A Portrait of Yvonne Rainer was a Performa Commission curated by Adrienne Edwards.

List Projects: Adam Pendleton is curated by Paul C. Ha, Director, MIT List Visual Arts Center, with Jamin An, Curatorial Fellow, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Exhibitions at the List Center are made possible with the support of Fotene Demoulas & Tom Coté, Audrey & James Foster, Jane & Neil Pappalardo, Cynthia & John Reed, and Terry & Rick Stone.

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About the MIT List Visual Arts Center

The List Visual Arts Center is a creative laboratory that provides artists with a space to freely experiment and push existing boundaries. As the contemporary art museum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the List Center presents a dynamic program of six to nine special exhibitions in its galleries annually, a program of exhibitions by emerging artists known as the List Projects, as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and publications. The List also maintains and adds to MIT's permanent art collection; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, a collection of more than 60 site specific artworks throughout the campus; and oversees the Student Loan Art Program, which lends more than 600 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

Originally named the Hayden Gallery, MIT established this center for the visual arts in 1950 to provide a dedicated structure upon which to build the Institute's existing relationship to the arts. It was renamed the List Visual Arts Center in 1985 in recognition of a gift from Vera and Albert List, and relocated to its current expanded location in the Wiesner Building on the campus of MIT, which was designed by MIT alumnus I.M. Pei (B.S. Architecture 1940) and Partners Architects.

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