

MIT List Visual Arts Center

Contact: Mark Linga

[mlinga@mit.edu](mailto:mlinga@mit.edu)

617.452.3586

**List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli**

July 28–October 25, 2015

**Cambridge, MA–July, 2015** Through mediums that include sculpture, photography, collage, and writing, Lina Viste Grønli investigates the tensions between physical things and abstract systems, particularly those of linguistics and philosophy. With considerable humor, and using everyday objects and materials, she considers categories that have been historically opposed—such as the intelligible and the sensible, words and things, the systematic and the arbitrary—and interprets the excess or remainder that is uncontained by these binary structures.

Viste Grønli's exhibition for List Projects takes as its starting point the letter E, the most common one in the English language. A number of the works transform ordinary pieces of furniture—a table, a bookshelf, a corkboard—into the visual form of an E. She plays with a tenet of structural linguistics, namely that the relationship between signs and the sounds they designate is arbitrary. A photograph, for example, depicts a person performing the sound-shape of the letter E using *Eurythmy*, a movement art developed by Rudolf Steiner in the 1930s. The titles of these works that physicalize the letter E also use words that begin with the letter E, such as *Entropy*, *Eggplant*, *Ebola*, *Effrontery*, and *English*, forming something of an "E-Poem."

However, the artist interrupts her system of Es with assemblies of everyday objects bearing no evident connection to the letter. Mussel shells, kitchen utensils, and an apple are adhered to or rest upon books, such as Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785). Playing with the systematic and the arbitrary, these juxtapositions are generated through a method she calls "thinging," borrowing a neologism philosopher Martin Heidegger used to inflect the noun "thing" into an action, such that these sculptures manifest the material and linguistic acts that allow them to exist.

Lina Viste Grønli (b. 1976, Bergen, Norway) lives and works in Cambridge, MA. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Thinging* at Stavanger Kunsthall, Stavanger, Norway; *Thinging* at Maison d'art Bernard Anthonioz, Nogent, France; *The Albaphet & Other Writings* at Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels; and *Feminism & Selected Writings* at Gaudel de Stampa, Paris.

*List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli* is curated by Alise Uptis, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Royal Norwegian Consulate General, the Office for Contemporary Art Norway, the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, MIT School of Architecture + Planning, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the MIT List Visual Arts Center Advisory Committee, and the Friends of the List.



## **List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli**

### **Related Public Programs**

#### **Opening Reception July 28, 2015, 5–7PM**

Celebrate the opening of the List's newest exhibition, *List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli*, by joining us for a special evening at the museum. Spend time looking closely in the gallery, and enjoy light refreshments.

The opening is free and open to the public.

#### **Ampersand Concert Series Cuddle Magic / Tom Greenberg July 30, 2015, 7:30PM Bartos Theatre, lower atrium level 20 Ames St., Cambridge, MA**

Doors open at 7:30 pm. Concert begins at 8 pm.

Ampersand is thrilled to host **Cuddle Magic** and **Tom Greenberg** play for this rocking summer concert! Kick off your shoes and enjoy Cuddle Magic, a six-member Brooklyn- & Philadelphia-based ensemble that integrates unique electro-acoustic sounds and classical strategies into songs based in folk & popular traditions. For their performance, **Cuddle Magic** are collaborating specially with **Anna Roberts-Gevalt**, a Baltimore-based multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker & musician.

Opening the show is Tom Greenberg, formally of the band **BOBBY**, debuting new songs that scale a super-lush, dream pop sound for a one-man band.

Tickets are available for purchase at the door. Cash only.

Cost: \$3 with MIT ID, \$5 general admission.

#### **Family Tour: Color Explorations for Babies and Toddlers July 31, 2015, 10–11:30AM**

Join families during a special workshop across MIT's campus for a day of art and exploration around the List's public art collection, just for babies and toddlers with their adult caregivers. This program is FREE and open to all; no advanced registration required.

The tour visits three works of art and allows adults and young visitors to discover colors and shapes in sculptures and installations through art making, sensory exploration, play, and storytelling. This special tour is best for children under 3 years old.



**Film Screening: *The Seventh Continent* (1989)**

**August 22, 2015, 2PM**

**Bartos Theatre, lower atrium level**

**20 Ames St., Cambridge, MA**

Join us for a summer matinee, selected by artist Lina Viste Grønli in conjunction with her current exhibition.

The debut feature film by Austrian director Michael Haneke (*Caché*, *The White Ribbon*), *The Seventh Continent* (1989, 104 min.) tells the story of three years in the life of a seemingly typical Viennese family who suddenly decides to destroy their lives without any apparent reason.

**Gallery Talk Lina Viste Grønli and Alise Upitis**

**September 26, 2015, 2:00PM**

Join us for a conversation between artist Lina Viste Grønli and exhibition curator Alise Upitis about the exhibition *List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli*. This joint gallery talk is held in the Bakalar Gallery, and is free and open to the public.

**Piano Performance Lina Viste Grønli and Peter Child**

**October 16, 2015, 6:00PM**

Enjoy a special performance held in conjunction with the exhibition *List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli*.

Artist Lina Viste Grønli and Peter Child, Professor, Music and Theater Arts, MIT, will perform an original work using a ninety-seven key Bösendorfer grand piano.

**All programs are free of charge unless specified.**

**ABOUT THE MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER**

Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 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 MIT, the List presents a dynamic program of six to nine special exhibitions in its galleries annually, a program of evolving site-specific work by emerging artists known as the List Projects, as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and scholarly publications. Beyond the full slate of special exhibitions and projects it presents each year, the List also maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, a collection of more than 50 site-specific artworks throughout the campus; and oversees the Student Loan Art Program, which lends more than 500 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 university'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 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which was designed by MIT alumnus I. M. Pei (B.S. Architecture, 1940) and Partners Architects.

For more information, visit: <http://listart.mit.edu>

**-end-**

