

F o r I m m e d i a t e R e l e a s e

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MIT List Visual Arts Center

***Hans Op de Beeck: Staging Silence (2)***  
**February 7–April 6, 2014**

**Opening Reception: February 6, 5-8PM**

**Artist Talk by Hans Op de Beeck, 6PM, Bartos Theater**

**January, 2014 (Cambridge, MA)**—The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to present Hans Op de Beeck's film *Staging Silence (2)* (2013). Hans Op de Beeck works in sculpture, installations, video, photography, animated films, drawing, painting, and writing. His various works show the viewer non-existent, but identifiable places, moments and characters that appear to have been taken from everyday life. Op de Beeck has described his works as "proposals"; he has expressed that they are irrefutably fictional and staged, leaving it up to the viewer whether or not to consider each work as a possible parallel reality, or to understand it as nothing more than a visual construct. Thematically his work concentrates on our laborious and problematic relationship with time, space, and each other resulting from globalization and the changes to our living environment brought about by developments in media, automation, and technology. Investigating the relationship between reality and representation—between what we see, what we want to believe, and what we create for ourselves—Op de Beeck's visual output reflects a keen interest in representing social and cultural phenomena through images that envelope the viewer.

Op de Beeck's black-and-white film *Staging Silence (2)* is based around abstract, archetypal settings that lingered in the memory of the artist as the common denominator of the many similar public places he has experienced. These memory images are disproportionate mixtures of concrete information and fantasies, and in this film they materialize before the spectator's eyes through anonymous tinkering hands. Arms and hands appear and disappear at random, manipulating everyday objects into miniaturized, artificially lit environments. The on-camera construction and de-construction of these environments lends the film a narrative weight that emphasizes the uncanny quality of spaces committed to memory. The film's title refers to the staging of interiors absent of people, where the spectator can project himself as the lone protagonist. These places are no more or less than animated decors for possible stories, evocative visual propositions to the spectator. The film is accompanied by a score, which, inspired by the images themselves, has been composed and performed by composer-musician Scanner (UK).

#### **About the Artist**

Hans Op de Beeck (b.1969) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium where he has developed his career through international exhibitions over the past ten years. Recent solo exhibitions include *Hans Op de Beeck: Sea of Tranquility*, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL and FRAC Paca, Marseille, France (2013); *The Settlement*, Emscherkunst, Essen, Germany (2013); and *Hans Op de Beeck: Parade, De Warande*, Turnhout, Belgium (2013). He recently completed a permanent installation at Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, Belgium. Op de Beeck has also shown widely in group shows, including recent exhibitions at institutions including Museo d'Arte Moderna de Bologna; Frieze London; Royal Museums of Fine Arts Belgium; Klaipeda Art Center, Lithuania; SH Contemporary, Shanghai; Galerie Cédric Bacqueville, Lille, France; and Staedtische Galerie Nordhorn, Germany.

*Hans Op de Beeck: Staging Silence (2)* is curated by List Director Paul C. Ha

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### **About the MIT List Visual Arts Center**

In 1950 MIT established the Hayden Gallery that was located in the Charles Hayden Memorial Library. The gallery served as a venue for a program of changing exhibitions. In 1985 the Hayden Gallery was renamed the List Visual Arts Center in recognition of a gift from Vera and Albert List that relocated the gallery to its current location on the ground floor of the Wiesner Building which was designed by MIT alumnus I.M. Pei (B.S. Architecture, 1940), and Partners Architects.

Over the years the MIT List Visual Arts Center has become highly respected as one of the most significant university art galleries in the country for its innovative, provocative, and scholarly exhibitions and publications. Just as MIT pushes at the frontiers of scientific inquiry, it is the mission of the List Visual Arts Center to explore challenging, intellectually inquisitive, contemporary art making in all media. In addition to presenting 4-6 exhibitions annually, the List Center presents a broad range of education programs in conjunction with its exhibition programming. The Center maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection of over 3,500 artworks that includes dozens of publicly sited sculptures and hundreds of paintings, prints, photographs, drawings, and sculptures located throughout MIT's campus. The List Center is also responsible for commissioning new works for the MIT Public Art Collection through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, and organizing and administering the Student Loan Art Program, which lends over 500 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

**Directions:** The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, at the eastern edge of the MIT campus. It is in close proximity to Kendall Square, Memorial Drive, and the Longfellow Bridge.

By T, take the Red Line to the Kendall/MIT stop, follow Main Street west to Ames Street, turn left, and walk one block to the crosswalk. The MIT List Visual Arts Center, housed in a building identifiable by its white gridded exterior, will be on your left. Signage is on the building.

By car, coming across the Longfellow Bridge or from Memorial Drive, follow signs for Kendall Square. Limited metered parking is available on Ames Street. A parking garage is located at the Cambridge Center complex (entrance on Ames between Main and Broadway). Paid public parking is also available at the Marriott Hotel on Broadway.

**Gallery Hours:** Tues-Wed: 12-6PM; Thurs: 12-8PM; Fri-Sun: 12-6PM; closed Mondays and major holidays.

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**Additional Information:** 617.253.4680 or <http://listart.mit.edu>

**All exhibitions at the MIT List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public.**