

For More Info: Dana Friis-Hansen 617/253-4400

A WIDE ARRAY OF INNOVATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE CLOCKS AND TIMEPIECES AT MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

MIT List Visual Arts Center's CLOCKWORK! offers an eclectic selection of recent clocks and timepieces by artists, architects, and industrial designers who challenge conventional notions toward the marking of time. The exhibition, on view December 17, 1988 through February 12, 1989, will include over fifty clocks, watches, hourglasses, timekeeping sculptures, as well as models, plans, and sketches for monumental site-specific projects which track celestial time. The public is invited to a preview reception on Friday, December 16 from 5 to 7 pm; many of the artists will be present.

Curator and Acting Director Katy Kline and Assistant Curator Dana Friis-Hansen, exhibition co-organizers, commented about the genesis of the project: Time is abstract and elusive. The various devices developed over the ages to measure or mark its passing reveal particular attitudes and values. This exhibition probes our contemporary obsession with time--the speeding up of the pace of our lives and the urge to crowd more and more activity into less and less duration. Scientific instruments allow us to divide time into units as small as femtoseconds--a quadrillionth of a second. Space travel promises acceleration across light years, while biomedical engineering allows us to stretch life on earth closer and closer toward immortality. We have long been interested in how contemporary artists, architects and industrial designers address the diverse faces of time. In this show the clock and other timepieces are deconstructed and imaginatively transformed in many ways to slow time's flow, to circumvent the spinning hands of time, or gauge time in new ways--all to better understand how this mysterious element works.

For example, the "Hare and Tortoise Clock" by Argentine-born architect and designer **Emilio Ambasz** uses the classic parable as a motif, while Russian emigre designer **Constantine Boym** draws a tense line between revelation versus withholding using the timeless visage of Mona Lisa. The new wave design firm **M & Co.** playfully subverts the face of the watch, scrambling the hands, or rearranging the numbers. The animated sculpture of Boston artist **Abram Ross Faber** is always wacky, and this time his "Bedroom Cuckoo Clock," created for this exhibition, promises to delight. New York architects **Karen Bausman** and **Patricia Pillette** have created a complex installation based on Greenwich Mean Time featuring architectural models of pavilions dedicated to such regulators as the tides, the sun, magnetism, biology, and the observatory at Greenwich. Minneapolis designer **Bruce Wright** has created a clock that tells time, while Los Angeles conceptual artist **Luciano Perna** has created a time wall. Assemblagist **Jon Kessler** has created an alarmed and satirical capsule (featuring fine art periodicals) timed to the year 2000. Performance artist and filmmaker **Stuart Sherman** turned the clock inside out (but it keeps on ticking!) **Donald Lipski** has created a series of quirky timepieces from glass tubes and bottles each filled with different liquids and assorted objects. **Barbara Kruger** and **Stephen King** have collaborated a bookwork--with a digital clock on its cover--that tells the tale of the increased pace of time between childhood and older age. Nearly thirty artists, architects or designers from across the United States and Canada are represented.

Assistant Curator Dana Friis-Hansen will lead an informal walk-through gallery talk on Sunday, January 29 at 3 pm. An illustrated catalogue will be published in January, featuring essays on the history of clocks and artist's attitudes toward time, as well as entries on each artist's contribution, and a bibliography of general readings.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building at 20 Ames Street in Cambridge, minutes from the Kendall Square Red Line Subway stop. Parking is available at the corner of Ames and Main streets.

Hours: Weekdays 12-6 Weekends 1-5

Closed December 24, 25, 26, 31, January 1, 2, and 16

Gallery information 253-4680