

## N E W S R E L E A S E



**TOURISMS: suitCase Studies**  
**An installation by Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio**

opening at the List Visual Arts Center, Friday May 3, 1991  
Public reception 5 to 7 pm; the artists will be present

Gallery Talk by the artists Saturday, May 4, 3 pm

The New York City-based architects Diller and Scofidio have created a playful, inventive and challenging installation on the subject of travel and tourism in the electronic age. By means of a grid of fifty identical suitcases suspended open from the gallery ceiling, the architects probe the new relationships which contemporary travel creates among bodies, geographies, histories and technologies.

The design of the traveling exhibition arises directly from its theme. The suitcases simultaneously transport and display the contents of the exhibition; each is a "micro-site" representing a tourist attraction, either a historic bedroom or a battlefield, from each of the 50 states. Each suitcase is self-sufficient and contains its own structure, imagery and lighting. As with most of Diller and Scofidio's works, which the *New Yorker* has called "brilliant and trailblazing ways of making architecture," the human body as an active participant is central. Viewers move from tourist attraction to tourist attraction through the forest of suitcases; the exhibition acknowledges its own role as a tourist attraction and implicates the museum as an agent in the tourist traffic.

In addition to maintaining their Manhattan office, the partners both teach architecture, Diller at Princeton University and Scofidio at the Cooper Union in New York. Among their earlier collaborations, which also investigated the psychological as well as pragmatic aspects of architecture, are *the withDrawing Room: versions and subversions* (1987) for the Capp Street Project, San Francisco and *para-site* (1989), an exhibition in the Projects series at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. *suitCase Studies* is the fifth in the series *Architecture Tomorrow* organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. Major funding for *Architecture Tomorrow* has come from The Jay Chiat Foundation, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and Helen and Kim Whitney. The silkscreen printing was generously contributed by John Nichols.

Partial funding for the exhibition at MIT has been provided by the LEF Foundation.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building at 20 Ames Street near the Kendall Square Red Line T station.

Hours: Weekdays 12-6; Weekends 1-5 Gallery phone: 253-4680

All events are free and open to the public.

The Center will be closed Monday, May 27.

For further information, photographs and requests for interviews call Ron Platt, 253-4400.