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***Michael Joo***

**Curator: Jane Farver**

**October 16, 2003–January 4, 2004**

**Reception: Saturday, November 1, 4–6 PM**

**Artist's Talk by Michael Joo: November 1, 2:30–3:30 PM**

A list of public programs is attached.

CAMBRIDGE, MA—September 11, 2003. The List Visual Arts Center (LVAC) is pleased to announce that its first exhibition of the 2003-2004 season, *Michael Joo*, will be on view from October 16, 2003, to January 4, 2004. Organized by LVAC director Jane Farver, this will be the first survey of Joo's works. Consisting of more than 60 works created between 1992 and 2003, the exhibition will include sculpture, video, installation, and works-on-paper. The show will also be the world premiere of Joo's three-screen digital video installation, *Circannual Rhythm (pibloktok)*, which was shot on location in Alaska.

A second-generation Korean American, Michael Joo was born in 1966 in Ithaca, NY. Raised in Ithaca and near Minneapolis, he studied biology at Wesleyan University. After working for a seed science company in Europe, he received a BFA in sculpture from Washington University in 1989 and an MFA in sculpture from Yale in 1991. Joo's interest in science informs his art, which examines the effects of race and/or gender on identity, and goes beyond that to explore how science, religion, and the media all shape consciousness.

Critic Alice Yang said in her book, *Why Asia? Contemporary Asian American Art*, (New York: NYU Press, 1998, p.20.) that:

...questions of racial identity constitute only one facet of Joo's work. Like a Rubik's cube, it is composed of multiple, shifting parts which do not comply with a simple geometry. Self and body, abstract knowledge and

material experience, biological transformation and technological change—all of these issues and many more form the elaborate matrix of Joo's art.”

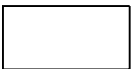
Chosen to represent South Korea in the 2001 Venice Biennale, Joo first gained international attention in 1994 when Damien Hirst included him in the groundbreaking exhibition, *Some Went Mad, Some Ran Away*, at London's Serpentine Gallery (which also traveled in Europe and the U.S.). Recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1998) and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters' and Sculptors' Grant (2000), Joo has also exhibited widely throughout Europe and Asia.

In his essay for the forthcoming catalogue for this exhibition, critic and curator Danien Birnbaum has written:

When I first encountered his work in New York in the early 1990s, it struck me as the most extreme example of an artist using new technologies and materials for his own deeply original and eccentric purposes. The specification of materials in his pieces reads like a new brand of concrete poetry: urinal cakes, synthetic testicles, laser beams, artificial lambs wool, mercury, bleach, hydrochloric acid.... Never before had I seen an Asian body swim through an ocean of monosodium glutamate or digital discs shine forth through cast resin. His work was puzzling and seemed to me philosophically hermetic, yet visually I was won over immediately. This, I thought, is the world as we know it: the substances, the machineries, the elastic identities of a new ontology

*Michael Joo* is made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Council for the Arts at MIT, and Hotel@MIT. Production of *Circannual Rhythm (pibloktok)* was supported by the American Center Foundation and the LEF Foundation.

Media sponsor: The Boston Phoenix



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Direction:

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St., 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 St. west to Ames St., turn left, and walk one block to the cross walk. The 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) during business hours and on campus after business hours and on weekends.

Gallery Hours:

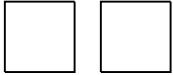
Tuesday – Thursday: 12 – 6PM; Friday: 12 – 8PM; Saturday and Sunday: 12 – 6PM

Closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's day

Information:

617-253-4680 or <http://web.mit.edu/lvac>

All exhibitions at the List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Accommodations are provided by request. Please call Hiroko Kikuchi at 617-452-3586 for inquiries.



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist's Talks: Michael Joo

Saturday, November 1, 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Friday, November 21, at 6 PM (Curator Jane Farver will participate.)

Curator's Talk: Jane Farver

Wednesday, December 3, at 12 PM

Gallery Talks:

Bill Arning or Hiroko Kikuchi

Every Wednesday at 12 PM

Bill Arning

Friday, October 17, at 6 PM

Friday, November 14, at 6 PM

Hiroko Kikuchi

Sunday, October 26, November 9 and 23, December 7 and 14, at 2 PM

Film Screening and Discussion: *Nanook of the North* (1922)

Thursday, November 13, at 7 PM, Bartos Theatre

This classic film by Robert Flaherty documents one year in the life of Nanook, an Inuit hunter, and his family as they struggle to survive in the harsh conditions of Canada's Hudson Bay region. *Nanook of the North* was widely shown and praised as the first full-length, anthropological documentary in cinematographic history.