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N E W S R E L E A S E

MIT List Visual Arts Center presents
Davis, Cherubini, in Contention
February 6-April 5, 2009
Hayden Gallery

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 6-8PM
Conversation between artists Taylor Davis and Nicole Cherubini
Moderated by curator Bill Arning
5:30PM, Bartos Theatre

Cambridge, MA–January, 2009. The MIT List Visual Arts Center (LVAC) present *Davis, Cherubini, in Contention*. This exhibition features recent collaborative works by artists Taylor Davis and Nicole Cherubini. Both are established sculptors who are making important contributions to the field today. Since 2006 they have been making works together under the name Davis, Cherubini—their two surnames separated by a comma (to read more like a list than as an independent author.) As independent artists they shared a way of working with materials and forms derived from functional arts. In many cases Davis's works appear to have been built by a woodworker, while Cherubini often works with vessel-like forms and uses clay among other materials to conjure iconic images of pots. Over the past few years they have engaged in an experiment in three-dimensional collaboration, in which each starts a sculpture in her own material languages that the other will have to complete. They try to invent forms that will challenge the other's working methods.

At one level the collaborative nature of the project defies the ego inflation that occurs in an art world in which the solo artist's name serves as a marker of a successful product line. More importantly, the project is the physical record of a dialogue between two artists understanding their own work when compared to the other's efforts. The exhibition is organized by List Visual Arts Center curator Bill Arning.

About the Artists:

Taylor Davis grew up in Washington State, before moving to Boston to attend the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University, where she earned a Diploma of Fine Arts and a B.S. of Education, respectively. She worked independently for several years before attending Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College receiving an M.F.A. in Sculpture. Davis lives and works in Boston, where she is an Associate Professor at Massachusetts College of Art. She is also Co-chair of Sculpture at the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College, and a visiting faculty member in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. She was included in the Whitney of American Art Biennial in 2004. Her work is in the permanent collections of The Fogg Museum at Harvard University, the ICA in Boston, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as in numerous private collections. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at Samson Projects and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and Triple Candie in New York City. Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at Exit Art and White Columns in New York City. Grants and awards include the Association of International Art Critics Award (2007 and 2002); the St. Botolph Foundation Grant (2003); the Institute of Contemporary Art Artist Prize (2001); and a Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant

(1999). Her work has been discussed in articles and reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Boston Herald*. She is represented by Samson Projects in Boston.

Nicole Cherubini was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1970 and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. Cherubini received her BFA in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1993, her MFA in Visual Arts from New York University in 1998, and she attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2002. She is a recipient of an NEA Travel Grant (Mexico), a New England Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2007) and recently an Art Matters Fellowship for travel and work in Mexico (2008-09). Past exhibitions include the project space at the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, PA; *Make it Now: New Sculpture in New York* at the Sculpture Center (New York City); *Transformer* at La Panadería (Mexico City); *Irrational Profusion* at PS1/MoMA (New York City); and *Empires and Environments* at the Rose Art Museum (Waltham, MA). In 2008, she had concurrent solo exhibitions with D'Amelio Terras and Smith-Stewart (New York City). In 2009, she will be featured in *Dirt on Delight* at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, which will travel to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN and also in *An Expanded Field of Possibilities* at the Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA. Her upcoming solo exhibitions include the Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA; Galerie Michael Janssen (Berlin, Germany); and Samson Projects in Boston. Her work has been written on by Roberta Smith, Franklin Sirmans, Ken Johnson, Jenelle Porter, and Lilly Wei, among others. In November of 2008, her "Top Ten" list appeared in *ArtForum*. She is represented by Smith-Stewart and D'Amelio Terras in New York, Samson Projects in Boston, and Michael Janssen in Berlin.

Support for *Davis, Cherubini, in Contention* has been generously provided by the NLT Foundation, Frank Williams, Manuel de Santaren, Steven Corkin, Bob Davoli and Eileen McDonagh, an anonymous donor, the Council for the Arts at MIT, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media Sponsor: Phoenix Media/Communications Group



Directions:

The MIT 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 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) during business hours and on campus after business hours and on weekends.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Wednesday: 12-6PM; Friday-Sunday: 12-6PM; Thursday: 12-8PM;
Closed Mondays 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. Wheelchair accessible. Accommodations are provided by request.

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