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## NEWS RELEASE

MIT List Visual Arts Center presents

*Emily Wardill: Game Keepers Without Game*

October 22, 2010 – January 2, 2011  
Reference Gallery

Opening Reception: October 21, 6-8PM



Emily Wardill, *Game Keepers Without Game*, 2009, Film, 76 minutes, Still

**Cambridge, MA-August, 2010.** The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to announce *Emily Wardill: Game Keepers Without Game*, the first U.S. museum presentation of the work of British artist Emily Wardill. The exhibition will consist of Wardill's recent feature length film *Game Keepers Without Game* (2009), as well as screenings of two of the artist's 16mm films, *Ben* (2007) and *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007).

*Game Keepers Without Game* is Wardill's re-imagining of the 17th-century play *Life Is a Dream (La Vida es Sueño)* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, set in contemporary London. Wardill's meticulously constructed film tells the story of a child who had been banished from the family home. When the girl becomes a teenager, her father's guilt leads him to devise a plan for her return. Yet by this time the divide between them is too great: the girl's destructive response to the objects and people around her leads to her being once again estranged. Set to a hypnotic drumming soundtrack, which highlights the spatial construction of the narrative, the film's story is told with a refractive, methodological precision, juxtaposing inanimate objects and the inter-subjective play of multiple narrators. This process is reflective of Wardill's practice of dismantling narrative and filmic conventions.

The two 16mm films to be screened as part of the exhibition combine theatre, visual culture, allegory, and "knots" in historical time, along with the artist's heightened use of filmic narrative. *Ben* (2007), is based on one of Freud's psychological studies, in which hypnosis is used to induce a "negative hallucination," or the active removal of a perception (where the hypnotized subject becomes convinced they see an object that is not

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actually there). Two voices are heard on the film's soundtrack: that of a hypnotist, attempting to induce the viewer into a hypnotic state, and that of a teenage girl reading a contemporary case study of a paranoid subject called *Ben*. *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007) revolves around a story based on a stained glass window, told through the artifice of cinematic melodrama.

### About the Artist

Emily Wardill (b.1977) is a London-based filmmaker. She has exhibited widely in the U.K. and internationally, including an upcoming exhibition at De Appel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2010), and past projects at Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL (2009); Spacex, Exeter, U.K. (2009); ICA, London, (2007) and Fortescue Avenue/Jonathan Viner, London, U.K. (2005 and 2006); and STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway (2008). Her work has been screened at the Art Now Lightbox, Tate Britain, London; the International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen, Germany; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and the London Film Festival. In 2008, Wardill was nominated for the Jarman Award and performed *Life is a Dream* at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 2007.

*Emily Wardill: Game Keepers Without Game* is organized by João Ribas, Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Support for *Emily Wardill: Game Keepers Without Game* has been generously provided by David Teiger, the Council for the Arts at MIT, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media Sponsor: Phoenix 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 and Major Holidays. 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.

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