

F o r I m m e d i a t e R e l e a s e

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MIT List Visual Arts Center

List Projects: Gabriel Abrantes
May 9–June 30, 2013

Opening Reception:
May 8, 5:30-8PM

March, 2013 (Cambridge, MA)—The MIT List Visual Arts Center presents an exhibition of three recent films by Lisbon-based artist and filmmaker Gabriel Abrantes as part of its new exhibition series *List Projects*, which focuses on supporting emerging artists at pivotal points in their career. With a distinct theatricality, cinematographic beauty, and narrative style, along with a historical and politicized focus, Abrantes crafts fictions around the new identities and relations of desire forged through globalization. His films are often centered on countries whose rapid economic development will increasingly shape the political, economic, and cultural landscape of our world; places “where contemporary forms of life are being invented,” as the artist describes. Often produced in collaboration and with local and non-professional actors, Abrantes’ films readily deal with the human impact of historical, economic, and political forces through the confines of cinematic narrative, from love story to war film or melodrama.

Abrantes’ brand of post-colonial cinema also implicates desire—and repression as its dialectic—in the reconstructing and reimagining of Portugal’s colonial past in particular. Filmed in Luanda, Angola, *Liberdade* (directed by Gabriel Abrantes and Benjamin Crotty, 2011, 16 min.) is focused on the new relationships of love and desire created by mass migration and economic consequences of global capital in Africa. *Fratelli* (directed by Gabriel Abrantes and Alexandre Melo, 2011, 17 min.) is a film adaptation of William Shakespeare’s prologue to the *Taming of the Shrew*, its Portuguese dialogue spoken with the Brazilian accent from Bahia, and filmed in the Lazio region of Italy. *Ornithes* (2012, 17 min.), shot in Jakmel, Haiti, is a theatrical adaptation of Aristophanes’ play *The Birds*, featuring costumes made by local artisans and dialogue in Creole and Attic Greek. Abrantes’ work foregrounds the role of a critical cinema in “forg[ing] a consciousness about situations and people that aren’t yet fully understood.”

About the Artist

Gabriel Abrantes (b.1984) is an artist and filmmaker who has produced a significant body of work in film since studying at L’ École National des Beaux-Arts (2005-2006) and Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts Contemporains, France (2007). Abrantes received a BA in Cinema and Visual Arts at Cooper Union in 2006. Abrantes is the winner of several prizes, including the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film at the Locarno Film Festival 2010 for his film *A History of Mutual Respect*. In 2010, he established A Mutual Respect, a production company that seeks to find alternative means to produce moving-image work.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, the MIT List Visual Arts Center Advisory Committee, and the Friends of the List.



About the MIT List Visual Arts Center

In 1950 MIT established the Hayden Gallery that was located in the Charles Hayden Memorial Library. The gallery served as a venue for a program of changing exhibitions. In 1985 the Hayden Gallery was renamed the List Visual Arts Center in recognition of a gift from Vera and Albert List that relocated the gallery to its current location on the ground floor of the Wiesner Building which was designed by MIT alumnus I.M. Pei (B.S. Architecture, 1940), and Partners Architects.

Over the years the MIT List Visual Arts Center has become highly respected as one of the most significant university art galleries in the country for its innovative, provocative, and scholarly exhibitions and publications. Just as MIT pushes at the frontiers of scientific inquiry, it is the mission of the List Visual Arts Center to explore challenging, intellectually inquisitive, contemporary art making in all media. In addition to presenting 6-9 exhibitions annually, the List Center presents a broad range of education programs in conjunction with its exhibition programming. The Center maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection of 3,500 artworks that includes dozens of publicly sited sculptures and hundreds of paintings, prints, photographs, drawings and sculptures located throughout MIT's campus. The List Center is also responsible for commissioning new works for the MIT Public Art Collection through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, and organizing and managing the Student Loan Art Program, which lends over 500 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

Directions: The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, 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 Street west to Ames Street, turn left, and walk one block to the crosswalk. 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). Paid public parking is also available at the Marriott Hotel on Broadway.

Gallery Hours: Tues-Wed: 12-6PM; Thurs: 12-8PM; Fri-Sun: 12-6PM; closed Mondays and major holidays.

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<https://www.facebook.com/mitlvac>

<https://twitter.com/MITListCenter>

Additional Information: 617.253.4680 or <http://listart.mit.edu>

All exhibitions and programming at the MIT List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public.