**9 ARTISTS**  
MAY 9 – JULY 13, 2014

**YAEI BARTANA**  
A key theme in the work of Yael Bartana (b. 1970, Israeli, lives and works in Berlin) is the investigation and the intervention in processes by which communities convene, subjects are formed, national mythologies maintained, and gendered behaviors enforced. 9 Artists features her video trilogy and Europe will be stunned, which tells of the rise of the Jewish Renaissance Movement in Poland, a quasi-fictional group that calls for the return to Poland of 3.3 million Jews. With the European resurgence in nationalism in recent years, the group becomes home to all who feel that citizenship should be organized around more than national, ethnic, or religious identity.

**LIAM GILICK**  
Intimately invested in the legacy of modernism, Liam Gillick (b. 1964) makes sculptures, text-based works, and publications that owe much to a working through of the failure of its utopian promise to design a more egalitarian society. The exhibition includes a range of projects from the last 20 years of the artist’s production. While the work on view ranges from graphic vinyl wall texts, to a giant Bloody Mary, to glitter carpets, it is aligned through a concern for how communities exist and are transformed in an era of ever increasing privatization.

**NATASHA SADR HAGHIGHIAN**  
Natascha Sadr Haghighian defies biography altogether, seeing the artist’s resume as a globally pervasive mode of regulating individuals according to conventional markers of identity, such as age, nationality, education, and institutional affiliations. Included in the exhibition is her present but not yet active, which resulted from her choice to forego an invitation to participate in Manifesta and to instead invite the European art biennial’s three curators to visit the Frankfurt Zoo, an institution developed according to a colonialist theory that the care of African wildlife could not be trusted to the continent’s indigenous peoples. Also featured are other works which display the artists keen sense of humor, and her relationship to site and context.

**RENO MARTENS**  
Renzo Martens (b. 1973, Dutch, lives and works in Brussels and Kinshasa) is known for his satirical and disturbing video documentaries in which he travels to war-torn countries and places himself narcissistically at the center of the action, playing with conventional formats of the documentary genre, borrowing from its reputation for objectivity while acknowledging its ongoing history as a means of propaganda and indoctrination. 9 Artists features Red Alert, through which the artist claims to have reached the logical end of the documentary genre, as well as How not to be seen. A fucking didactic educational MOVIE, which continues her long meditation on the nature of the image in the digital age.

**BJARNE MELGAARD**  
Bjarne Melgaard (b. Australia, 1967, Norwegian, born in Australia and based in New York) has produced a newly commissioned work of documentary photographs by Johannes Worsøe Berg. Disturbing and illuminating, these photos capture the figure of the artist in seemingly candid documentation as well as many of his immersive and expressoric installations. The photographs are accompanied by a new video and soundtrack developed with artist Marie Karlberg (b. 1985, Swedish-Iraqi, lives and works in Brooklyn, New York).

**NÁSTIO MOSQUITO**  
The work of artist Nástio Mosquito (b. 1981, Angola, lives and works in Luanda) finds form in music, performances, and videos, and the exhibition will present a range of moving image works, including two videos featuring one of the artist’s alter egos, Nástia (the feminine form of Nástio in Portuguese), a Russian-accented prognosticator, who discourses about the world with a mixture of crude cliché, insight, and satirical self-help dogma. The exhibition also features Mosquito’s new video essay, Nástio Mosquito Answers Ryan Bartholomew produced in association with Vic Pereira and leading out of a series of questions sent to him by the exhibition curator for the 9 Artists publication.

**HITO STEYERL**  
Since the 1990s, Hiton Steyerl (b. 1966, Munich, lives and works in Berlin) has played with conventional formats of the documentary genre, borrowing from its reputation for objectivity while acknowledging its ongoing history as a means of propaganda and indoctrination. 9 Artists features Red Alert, through which the artist claims to have reached the logical end of the documentary genre, as well as How not to be seen. A fucking didactic educational MOVIE, which continues her long meditation on the nature of the image in the digital age.

**DANH VO**  
People, objects, art history, geopolitics, and various identity formations all become material in the work of Danh Vo (Danish, b. 1975, Vietnam, lives and works in Berlin and New York), producing a profound portrait of the complicitness and complexities of the today. Vo’s I M U U R 2 draws on the personal archive of deceased artist Martin Wong, a painter deeply involved in New York’s 1980s Lower East Side art scene, which Wong developed over many years in collaboration with his mother, Florence Wong. Vo’s work Tombstone for Phung Vo, 2010 features calligraphy by his father, and after this exhibition will be in situ in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden until Vo’s father’s death. At that point it will adorn his father’s grave in Copenhagen. The inscription on the surface is sourced from the Romantic poet John Keats, who was buried in exile in Rome. The work considers French colonialism in Vietnam, Vo’s family history, and the interplay between documents and the legitimization of personal identity.
9 ARTISTS

9 Artists brings together a multigenerational and international group of artists—Yael Bartana, Liam Gillick, Natascha Sadr Haghighian, Renzo Martens, Bjørn Melgaard, Nástio Mosquito, Hito Steyerl, and Danh Võ—whose viewpoints and approaches to making are diverse, but who share a belief that art must engage with society. Through the works on view, the artists ponder the essence of citizenship, address geopolitics in an increasingly networked sphere, seek to bring new understanding to the changing nature of intimacy, love, and family; beyond the gallery walls, their ambitious and provocative efforts often extend to writing, performance, publishing, theory, and activism.

The exhibition is organized by the Walker Art Center and curated by Bartholomew Ryan; Alise Upitis, MIT List Visual Arts Center Assistant Curator, has collaborated with Ryan on curating the exhibition for the List.

CATALOGUE

9 Artists is accompanied by a catalog to which the artists have each contributed a 16-page artist's book exploring some aspect of their practice, often in collaboration with other artists, writers, or designers including Karl Holmqvist, Phùng Vo, Galit Eilat, Vic Pereiro, Federica Bueti and T.J. Demos.

SUPPORTED BY

9 Artists is organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. Major support for the exhibition is provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is generously provided by Lisa and Pat Denzer and Audrey and Zygi Wilf. The exhibition catalogue is made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of Walker Art Center publications. Additional support is provided by Isabella Bortolozzi Galerie, Gavin Brown’s enterprise, Galerie Buchholz, and Marian Goodman Gallery.

MIT List Visual Arts Center’s presentation is generously supported as part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulaat Generaal in the Netherlands in New York; the Netherlands-America Foundation; and the Goethe-Institut Boston, with generous annual support by the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, the Massachusetts Cultural Council; TOKY; the MIT List Visual Arts Center Advisory Commitee; and the Friends of the List.

HAYDEN AND REFERENCE GALLERIES: May 9 – July 13, 2014

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

MAY 10, 12–4PM
Family Day at the List: Graphic Text Workshop

MAY 15, 6-8PM
9 Artists opening reception

MAY 15, 6PM
Artist talk by Liam Gillick and conversation with 9 Artists’ curators Bartholomew Ryan and Alise Upitis (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

MAY 16, 6PM
Lecture by Renzo Martens, artist and Creative Director of the Institute for Human Activities, an organization dedicated to increasing living standards in the Congo through artist-initiated gentrification

MAY 18, 12–6PM
Open House at the List: Art Museum Day 2014

MAY 31, 1PM
Tour of 9 Artists with List Assistant Curator Alise Upitis

MAY 31, 2PM
Screening of Shohei Imamura’s The Ballad of Narayama (1983, 130 min.), selected by artist Danh Vo (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

JUNE 12, 6PM
Leroy and Dorothy Levine Lecture Series
Artist talk by Hito Steyerl, whose films and essays examine the proliferation, dissemination, and ontology of the digital image (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

JUNE 14, 12–4PM
Family Day at the List

JUNE 18, 6–7PM
Reading seminar with List Curatorial Fellow Jeff De Blois examining the status of the documentary in contemporary art, with a focus on the work of Renzo Martens and Hito Steyerl

JULY 9, 6–7PM
Reading seminar with List Curatorial Fellow Jeff De Blois examining the relationship between collecting and identity, with a focus on Danh Vo’s 1/M U R 2, a work drawing from the personal archive of artist Martin Wong.