

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

Sonia Almeida: Forward/Play/Pause

February 7–April 6, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 6, 5-8PM

Artist Talk by Hans Op de Beeck, 6PM, Bartos Theater

January, 2014 (Cambridge, MA)—The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to present *Forward/Play/Pause*, an exhibition featuring the work of painter Sonia Almeida. Sonia Almeida's work investigates tensions, both historical and contemporary, between scientific color theories—which seek to analyze the physical properties of light—and our perceptual experience of light and color. As part of this process, she explores the limits of chromatic and symbolic abstraction and how properties traditionally associated with other mediums and disciplines—such as duration, translation, and information—can be operative in painting.

Almeida's paintings *Stacking π* and *Dismantling π* both consider the Greek origins of Western thought on color and abstraction through the symbol π , used to represent the ratio between a circle's circumference and diameter, and a number which cannot be expressed as the ratio of any two integers. "What can be more abstract," Almeida notes, "than the idea of the infinite in a mathematical constant?" *Red Signal* gestures towards the graphical representation of light's electromagnetic waveforms—a 19th century discovery for which the calculation of π is central—as well as the significance of the grid in both scientific and artistic representation.

Forward/Play/Pause and *Silver Screen* draw on the relationship between visual translation and the loss of information, such as how there can be no general mathematical formula for converting between light-based and pigment-based color models, such as RGB and CMYK, as these color spaces activate different subsets of the visible spectrum. These works also connect archetypal forms to icons of media interactivity. In moving images and painting, for example, the phenomenon of successive contrast—perceived through the afterimage left by complementary colors—means duration is always operative in the act of looking.

About the Artist

Sonia Almeida was born in 1978 in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives and works in Boston, MA. Solo exhibitions include: Simone Subal Gallery, New York (2013, 2012); T293, Rome, Italy (2011); *Chiado 8, Culturegest*, Lisbon Portugal (2009); Croxhapox, Gent, Belgium (2009); *Art Positions (with T293)*, Art Basel Miami Beach, FL (2009). Group shows include: *12 Contemporaries-Present States*, Museu de Serralves, Porto, Portugal (2014); *deCordova Biennial*, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Boston, MA (2013); *Plentitude*, Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK (2012); *a project by Lucie Fontaine*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY; *Modern Talking*, Muzeul National de Arta Cluj-Napoca, Romania (2012); *Painting Overall*, Prague Biennial 5, Prague, Czech Republic (2011); *Four Rooms*, Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw Poland (2011); *Personal Freedom*, Portugal Arte 10, Lisbon, Portugal

(2010); *Acts Are For Actors*, Southfirst Gallery, Brooklyn, New York (2010); *EDP Novos Artistas*, Lisbon, Portugal (2009); *The Elementary Particles (Paperback Edition)*, Standard (Oslo), Norway (2006).

Sonia Almeida: Forward/Play/Pause is curated by MIT List Visual Arts Center Assistant Curator Alise Uptitis. The artist's book *Sonia Almeida*, with an essay by the curator, will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided 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 Committee, and the Friends of the List. Special thanks to Simone Subal Gallery.

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 4-6 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 over 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 administering 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.

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