

MIT List Visual Arts Center

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The MIT List Visual Arts Center

presents

Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space
October 23, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Opening Reception:
October 22, 6-8PM

September 14, 2015—Cambridge, MA The MIT List Visual Arts Center presents a major exhibition of work by acclaimed Berlin-based artist Rosa Barba, her most comprehensive show in North America to date. Barba's works encompassing sculptures, installations, text pieces, and publications are grounded in the material qualities of celluloid and the cinema. Her practice bridges making conceptual projector sculptures—reminiscent of what is known as structural film—that examine the physical properties of the projector, celluloid, and projected light, and longer projected film works situated between experimental documentary and fictional narrative. These speculative stories are indeterminately situated in the past or the future and probe into the relationship of historical record, personal anecdote, and filmic representation.

In nine works made over the last six years, most of which have not been shown in the United States before, the List exhibition focuses on Barba's long-standing engagement with landscape and time, particularly her interrogation of "deep" geological time as measured against the span of a human lifetime.

The 35mm-film installation *Time As Perspective* (2012) is a central work in the show: Projected on a large screen suspended from the ceiling in the middle of the gallery space, the footage includes bird's eye views of the Texan desert and incessantly turning oil pump jacks, interspersed with intertitles of text fragments and augmented by a foreboding electronic soundtrack. Presenting a meditation on man-made interventions into the natural environment as well as a waning industrial age, the film speaks to Barba's multifaceted interest in technical obsolescence.

The List Center also premieres Barba's new film and sculpture *The Color Out of Space* (2015), lending its title to the show as a whole, which incorporates images of stars and planets collected over the last year at Hirsch Observatory at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Projected through a sculptural series of colored glass panels, the luminous astronomical images are accompanied by



voice-over compiling reflections by scientists, writers, and artists on space and time, permanence and impermanence, and our on limited knowledge of the vast universe.

About the Artist

Rosa Barba (b. 1972, Agrigento (Sicily), Italy) lives and works in Berlin. Barba studied at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. Solo exhibitions include Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland; Bergen Kunsthall, Norway; Jeu de Paume, Paris; and Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany among others. She was a resident artist at Artpace, San Antonio in 2014 and at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa in 2013.

[Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space](#) is curated by Henriette Huldish, Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Public Program

MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT)

Monday Night Lecture Series
October 19, 7-9PM

Rosa Barba with Haseeb Ahmed (Artist, Brussels and Zurich), and exhibition curator Henriette Huldish.

ACT Cube, Wiesner Bldg (E15-001) Lower Level
More info can be found [here](#).

Catalogue

In conjunction with the exhibition, the publication *Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space* with essays by Victoria Brooks (Curator, Time-Based Visual Art, EMPAC, Troy, NY), Gloria Sutton (Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art History and New Media, Northeastern University, Boston), and Henriette Huldish will be co-published by MIT List Visual Arts Center, EMPAC, and Dancing Foxes Press, Brooklyn, NY.

Support

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Consulate General of Italy in Boston, Goethe-Institut Boston, as well as the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the MIT List Visual Arts Center Advisory Committee, and many generous individual donors.

ABOUT THE MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the List Visual Arts Center is a creative laboratory that provides artists with a space to freely experiment and push existing boundaries. As the contemporary art museum at MIT, the List presents a dynamic program of six to nine special



exhibitions in its galleries annually, a program of evolving site-specific work by emerging artists known as the List Projects, as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and scholarly publications. Beyond the full slate of special exhibitions and projects it presents each year, the List also maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, a collection of more than 50 site-specific artworks throughout the campus; and oversees the Student Loan Art Program, which lends more than 500 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

Originally named the Hayden Gallery, MIT established this center for the visual arts in 1950 to provide a dedicated structure upon which to build the university's existing relationship to the arts. It was renamed the List Visual Arts Center in 1985 in recognition of a gift from Vera and Albert List, and relocated to its current, expanded location in the Wiesner Building on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which was designed by MIT alumnus I. M. Pei (B.S. Architecture, 1940) and Partners Architects. This year the List Visual Arts Center celebrates 30 years as MIT's contemporary art museum.

For more information, visit: <http://listart.mit.edu>

