

From the News Office
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
Telephone: (617) 253-2705

March 27, 1986

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dana Friis-Hansen, 253-4400

MABOU MINES RESIDENCY AT MIT INCLUDES
HOLOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE, RESEARCH, LECTURES

Ruth Maleczek, a member of the collaborative theatre company Mabou Mines, and Linda Hartinian, an artist who frequently works with the company, will be in residence April 14-28 in The Reference Gallery of MIT's List Visual Arts Center. They will present Imagination Dead Imagine, continue their research in the uses of holography in experimental theatre, and participate in several public educational events.

(A list of public events is attached.)

Eleven performances of Imagination Dead Imagine, based on a short novel of the same name by Samuel Beckett, will be presented in The Reference Gallery during the weekend of April 25-27. Directed by Ruth Maleczek, this 14-minute theatrical work features holographic design by Linda Hartinian, sculpture by L.B. Dallas, and holographic stereograms by Hart Perry. Admission is free but reservations will be required; call 253-4680.

The text of Imagination Dead Imagine is spoken on tape by Ruth Nelson through a digital sound system while a holographic image of a post-pubescent girl/woman hovers above. This figure, performed by Clove 333 Galilee, is composed of five multiplex 360-degree holograms aligned horizontally, each cylinder turning freely with its housing, independent of the others. Beneath the hologram, a complicated

(Continued)

bier-like sculpture--the detritus of a lifetime--conceals the source of the voice. Imagination Dead Imagine was first presented in June 1984 at the Performing Garage in New York city.

Writing of Mabou Mines' Imagination Dead Imagine in Artforum, John Howell observed: "No performance experience prepares a viewer for watching this hologram. It rotates, it seems to move, but no, it only repeats itself--it's moving but it's not. Three dimensional, it communicates more than a photograph or film image, but less than a living person. If these allusions serve a metaphoric double duty, that's no accident; the hologram is a precise, concrete, objective correlative for the death-in-life experience described in Beckett's writing....Though brief and elusive, the performance experience of Imagination Dead Imagine packs more vertiginous thought and disorienting feeling into its miniaturist scale than many longer, more elaborate performances."

Mabou Mines, founded in 1969 and based in New York City, is a collective of nine writers, directors, designers, and performers who collaborate on original theatre work.

Linda Hartinian is a sculptor, set designer, and performance artist. She is the winner of the Maharam Award for Design for the puppet "John Greed" in A Prelude to Death in Venice in 1980 and again in 1983 for the set design of Cold Harbor and for the mask and makeup for Hajj.

Ruth Maleczech is a performer, director, and founding member of Mabou Mines. For her work with the company Ms. Maleczech has received Village Voice Obie awards for her performances in Through the Leaves and Hajj, and a Villager Award for her direction of Wrong Guys.

(Continued)

The Reference Gallery of the List Visual Arts Center functions as a hybrid of a laboratory, studio, and staging area, to make accessible the usually private process by which a work of art is realized. This residency has been organized by the MIT Committee on the Visual Arts, and is funded by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities' Art Exchange program.

(See attached list of events).

Events of the Mabou Mines residency
The Reference Gallery
List Visual Arts Center

"Experimental Theatre, Holography, and Imagination Dead
Imagine," with Linda Hartinian and Ruth Maleczech.
April 22, Tuesday, 7 pm.

"Staging Beckett's Prose," Linda Hartinian and Ruth
Maleczech with Robert N. Scanlan, MIT Drama Program.
April 24, Thursday, 3:30 pm.

Eleven performances of Imagination Dead Imagine,
weekend of April 25-27, as follows:
April 25, Friday, at 2, 3, 4 pm
April 26, Saturday, at 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 pm
April 27, Sunday, at 2, 3, 4 pm

Informal reception for discussion with the artists.
Monday, April 28, 4-6 pm.

All events are in The Reference Gallery of the List
Visual Arts Center on the first floor of the Wiesner
Building, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, Mass.
Information: Dana Friss-Hansen, 253-4400.