

News Release

ARTIST JNO COOK'S RADICALLY RECYCLED CAMERAS ON VIEW AT MIT

For further information call Ron Platt: (617) 253-4400

As part of the List Visual Arts Center's continuing celebration of the 151st anniversary of photography, **Jno Cook: Radically Recycled Cameras**, an exhibition of cameras and photographs by Chicago-based artist Jno (pronounced Jon) Cook will be on view at the List Center from March 14 through April 22, 1990. The public is invited to attend an opening reception on Tuesday, March 13, from 5-7 pm.

Cook has designed and constructed a wide variety of cameras, all made from reclaimed optical and mechanical materials, as well as common household objects such as cookie tins. In formulating and executing his camera designs the artist has never found it necessary to look further than high-school texts on geometry and physics. Most of Cook's quirky, home-made cameras are functional; some will be accompanied in the exhibition by photographs they've produced. According to exhibition curator Ron Platt, "these cameras often illustrate a basic photographic principle, such as color separation, or are designed to take a specific picture - the *35mm 3200 Frame Remote Camera*, for instance, was originally made as test equipment to photograph the insides of railway car wheels for a Federal Railway Agency project. Another camera ensnares, electrocutes and photographs cockroaches." Black humor aside, Cook's artistic mission is simple and direct: to demystify the technological inscrutability of the photography industry - and in turn to demonstrate to other artists that it is safe to experiment with photographic equipment as one would with any other artist's tools.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the artist will host a gallery talk on Wednesday, March 14 at 6 pm. An illustrated publication is also available.

Also on view March 14 - April 22 - *Paper Architecture: New Projects from the Soviet Union* and *Rebecca Purdum: Paintings*.

Admission to List Center galleries and events is free and open to the public. Hours: weekdays: noon to 6 pm; weekends: 1 to 5 pm. Closed holidays.

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Five minutes from Kendall Square Red Line subway stop. Parking available at corner of Main and Ames Streets.

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