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MIT List Visual Arts Center to present

**Y E S YOKO ONO**

**FIRST AMERICAN RETROSPECTIVE OF PIONEERING AVANT-GARDE ARTIST**

**OCTOBER 18, 2001 – JANUARY 6, 2002**

**Press conference Friday, October 19, 12:30 – 1:30pm**

**Registration begins at 11:30am Credentials required.**

**RSVP press requests by October 10: hiroco@mit.edu or fax 617 258 7265**

**Discounted press catalogues are available at \$30**

Public opening reception Friday, October 19, 5:30 – 7:30pm

**Lecture Event with YOKO ONO**

Saturday, October 20, 2:30 – 3:30pm

Bartos Theatre

Reservations required: **SOLD OUT**

**CAMBRIDGE, MA** — YOKO ONO's first American retrospective, **Y E S YOKO ONO**, comes to the MIT List Visual Arts Center on **October 18, 2001**. The exhibition, organized by the Japan Society in New York City, has been remarkably popular, attracting over 150,000 visitors to its recent presentation in Minneapolis. It features approximately 150 works from the 1960s to the present, with a focus on ONO's early period, and includes objects and installations; language works, such as instruction pieces and scores; film and video; music; and performance art. It is divided into five chronological and thematic sections: GRAPEFRUIT: The Early Instructions; HALF-A-WIND: Early Objects; FLY: Events, Performances & Films; WAR IS OVER!: The Peace Movement & Other Collaborations with John Lennon; and PLAY IT BY TRUST: Recent Work. The exhibition title, **Y E S YOKO ONO**, refers to the interactive installation known as *Ceiling Painting*, an important work shown at ONO's historic 1966 Indica Gallery show in London. Descriptions for each section and a biography of the artist are attached.

The exhibition offers the first comprehensive reevaluation of ONO's prolific 40-year career, exploring her position within the postwar international avant-garde, and her critical and influential role in originating forms of avant-garde art, music, film, and performance. It examines her early and central role in the Fluxus movement; her important contributions to Conceptual Art in New York, London and Tokyo; her concerts; experimental films; vocal recordings; public art, including works made with John Lennon; and recent works, including interactive installations and site-specific art. ONO collaborated with such avant-garde figures as John Cage, George Maciunas, Nam June Paik, Charlotte Moorman, Andy Warhol, and Ornette Coleman, and works from these collaborations are also represented.

The exhibition is organized by modern Japanese art historian Alexandra Munroe in consultation with Fluxus scholar Jon Hendricks. Munroe, Director of Japan Society Gallery, is recognized internationally for her publications and landmark exhibitions in the field of modern Asian art, notably, *Japanese Art After 1945: Scream Against the Sky* seen at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in 1994. Jon Hendricks, curator of The Gilbert and Lila Silverman Fluxus Collection, Detroit, is renowned for his catalogue raisonné *Fluxus Codex* (Abrams, 1988). He has worked as YOKO ONO's curator and archivist since 1989 and has contributed to several important exhibitions of ONO's work.