

Contact:
Hiroko Kikuchi
617-452-3586
hiroco@mit.edu

A short film: *Rapid Eye Movement*

Runa Islam

Bakalar Gallery

February 6–April 6, 2003

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, February 7, 5:30–7:30 PM

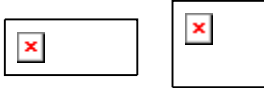
Cambridge, MA – The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to announce the U.S. premiere of Runa Islam's short film (22 min), *Rapid Eye Movement* (2002), at the Bakalar Gallery from February 6 through April 6, 2003. Islam, a London-based artist, makes short films and filmic installations to excavate and reveal the many aspects of film's language. Her work serves to include the very seductiveness of film, which is ordinarily occluded. The artist will be present at the opening reception on Friday, February 7, 5:30–7:30 PM.

In her newest work *Rapid Eye Movement*, Islam takes the understanding of film as a form of collective dreaming as a starting point for a luscious cinematic adventure. Six strangers on an extended train trip doze and dream. We witness the interweaving plots of their imaginings. With the convoluted logic of dreams, their stories overlap, and each passenger becomes both dream–protagonist as well as a guest character in the other passengers' subconscious fantasies. Islam employs two celebrated tropes of filmmaking–strangers brought together in a controlled space (*Lifeboat* and *Grand Hotel*) and the forced confusion of faux cinematic reality with the dream-within-a-film motif (*Vanilla Sky* and *Sixth Sense*). Thus she can lovingly deconstruct the intoxicating imagery, mainstream and counter-cultural history, and physical mechanisms of cinema culture. In her work Islam subtly alludes to the great directors Luis Buñuel, Jean Cocteau, and Werner Fassbinder, making it clear that in terms of the lineage of visual art today they should be considered as the great originators alongside Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp. Islam finds in cinema a densely loaded site of culture that requires her unique and substantial unpacking and rereading of its forms to better celebrate and enjoy its most powerful resonance.

Runa Islam, born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1970, lives and works in London. She studied at Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, United Kingdom and Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom from 1990 to 1995. She also participated in a studio program at Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands in 1997-98.

Islam's work has been shown in numerous galleries and museums. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Screen Test/ Unscript*, Fig-1, London, United Kingdom (2001), *Director's Cut (Fool for Love)*, White Cube, London, United Kingdom (2001), and *One day a day will come when a day will not come anymore*, April in parking meters in Cologne, Germany (2001). Group exhibitions include *EAST International*, Norwich, United Kingdom (1999), *Dis.locations*, hARTware, Projekte, Dortmund, Germany (1999), *Stimuli*, Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (1999-2000), *if there were no stories*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2000), and *50 projects, 50 weeks, fig-1 project*, Soho, London, United Kingdom (2000), *In/SITE/out. Inquiries into Social Space*, Apex Art, New York (2001), and *Century City*, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom (2001), *VideoDrome*, New Museum, New York (2002), and *Tele-Journeys*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, MA (2002). The film, *Rapid Eye Movement*, is currently part of the 2002 Taipei Biennial, *Great Theatre of the World* at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan (2002-2003).

The List Center's programs are generously supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Council for the Arts at MIT. Special thanks to the British Consulate-General, Boston, Massachusetts.



Direction

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St., 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 St. west to Ames St., turn left, and walk one block to the cross walk. The 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) during business hours and on campus after business hours and on weekends.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Thursday: 12 – 6 PM; Friday: 12 – 8 PM; Saturday and Sunday: 12 – 6 PM
Closed Mondays

Information

617-253-4680 or <http://web.mit.edu/lvac>

All exhibitions at the List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Accommodations are provided by request. Please call Hiroko Kikuchi, at 617-452-3586 for inquiries.

