

Public Programs

Opening Reception:

Thursday, October 21, 6-8PM

Pre-reception Artist Talk by Frances Stark, 5:30PM, Bartos Theatre

Additional Programs

Wednesday, October 27, 12:30PM

Lunchtime Gallery Talk by LVAC educator Mark Linga

Thursday, October 28, 6PM

Gallery Talk by LVAC curator João Ribas

Thursday, October 28, 7PM, Reference Gallery

Two Short Films by Emily Wardill: *Ben* (2007, 10 min.); *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007, 10min.)

Saturday, November 6, 11 AM

Raindate: Sunday, November 7, 11 AM

MIT Campus Public Art Tour by LVAC public art curator Alise Upitis

Wednesday, November 10, 12:30PM

Lunchtime Gallery Talk by LVAC curator João Ribas

Saturday, November 13, 2PM

Gallery Talk by LVAC educator Mark Linga

Wednesday, November 17, 7PM, Bartos Theatre

Artist Talk by Melvin Moti

Thursday, December 2, 7PM, Bartos Theatre

Talk by MIT Professor Alex Byrne

Wednesday, December 8, 12:30PM

Lunchtime Gallery Talk with LVAC director Jane Farver

Thursday, December 9, 6PM

Gallery Talk with LVAC curator João Ribas

Thursday, December 9, 7PM, Reference Gallery

Two short films by Emily Wardill: *Ben* (2007, 10 min.); *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007, 10 min.)

Saturday, December 18, 2PM

Gallery Talk with LVAC educator Mark Linga

Support for *Game Keepers Without Game* has been generously provided by David Teiger, the Council for the Arts at MIT, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media Sponsor: Phoenix Media Communications Group.



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Emily Wardill

Game Keepers Without Game

October 22, 2010-January 2, 2011

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Emily Wardill

Game Keepers Without Game

Game Keepers Without Game is London-based artist Emily Wardill's re-imagining of the 17th-century play *Life Is a Dream (La Vida es Sueño)* by Spanish dramatist Pedro Calderón de la Barca. Set in contemporary London, Wardill's meticulously constructed film tells the story of a child who had been banished from the family home. "Stay" is put up for adoption at a young age due to her destructive behavior. When she becomes a teenager, her father's guilt leads him to devise a plan for her return. Yet by this time the divide between them is too great: the girl's destructive response to the objects and people around her leads to her tragic and violent estrangement once again. Set to a hypnotic drumming soundtrack, which highlights the spatial construction of the film, the story is told with a refractive, methodological precision. Wardill's staging juxtaposes inanimate objects—functioning alternatively as status symbols, evidence of crimes, and theatrical props—with the inter-subjective play of multiple actors. This process is reflective of the artist's practice of dismantling narrative and filmic conventions, while also throwing the contemporary into historical relief. In her films, various narratives, metaphors, and allegories are adapted to different historical eras.

The two 16mm films to be screened as part of the exhibition combine theatre, visual culture, allegory, and "knots" in historical time, along with the artist's heightened use of filmic narrative. *Ben* (2007) is based on one of Freud's psychological studies, in which hypnosis is used to induce a "negative hallucination," or the active removal of a perception (where the

hypnotized subject becomes convinced that an object in front of them is not actually present). Two voices are heard on the film's soundtrack: that of a hypnotist, attempting to induce a hypnotic state, and that of a teenage girl reading a contemporary case study of a paranoid subject called Ben. *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007) revolves around a story based on a stained glass window, told through the artifice of cinematic melodrama. Inspired by the use of paradigms in contemporary political theory, they are here traced back to ways in which stained glass windows functioned as vehicles for communication in a largely illiterate medieval society. Details of the windows reveal a peculiarly contemporary story, hinting at a narrative of desire in turns both highly stylized and slapstick.

About the Artist

Emily Wardill (b.1977) is a London-based filmmaker. She has exhibited widely in the U.K. and internationally, including an upcoming exhibition at De Appel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2010), and past projects at Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL (2009); Spacex, Exeter, U.K. (2009); ICA, London, (2007); and Fortescue Avenue/Jonathan Viner, London, U.K. (2005 and 2006); and STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, Norway (2008). Her work has been screened at the Art Now Lightbox, Tate Britain, London; the International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen, Germany; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and the London Film Festival. In 2007, Wardill performed *Life is a Dream* at the Serpentine Gallery, London. In 2010, she was the recipient of the Derek Jarman Award.

Film Screening Schedule

Game Keepers Without Game will be screened daily in the Reference Gallery. The film is 72 minutes in length. Start times are listed below:

12:15PM

1:40PM

3:10PM

4:30PM

6:00PM (Thursdays only)

Additional Film Screenings:

Two Short Films by Emily Wardill: *Ben* (2007, 10 min.); *Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck* (2007, 10 min.)

Thursday, October 28, 7PM, Reference Gallery

Thursday, December 9, 7PM, Reference Gallery

(Please note the film screenings on October 28 and December 9 will be preceded by a gallery talk by LVAC curator João Ribas at 6PM.)