

MIT List Visual Arts Center

MIT List Visual Arts Center announces *Safe Passage* a solo exhibition featuring new sculptural works by Kapwani Kiwanga. The List Center exhibition is Kiwanga's first major presentation at a US museum.



Kapwani Kiwanga, *Jalousie*, 2018. Installation view: *A wall is just a wall (and nothing more at all)*, Esker Foundation, Canada, 2018. Commissioned by Esker Foundation Commission Fund. Photo: John Dean.

Cambridge, MA, November 16, 2018—The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to announce *Safe Passage*, solo exhibition featuring recent and new sculptural work by Kapwani Kiwanga. Kiwanga is a Paris-based artist who traces historical narratives, excavating and considering the global impact of colonialism and how it permeates contemporary culture. Her work is research-driven, instigated by marginalized or forgotten histories, and articulated across a range of materials and mediums including sculpture, installation, photography, video, and performance. At the core of her exhibition at the List Center is an interest in surveillance and the systems used in controlling the movement of bodies in space. Kiwanga follows the lineage of surveillance in relation to blackness in America, from its colonial roots in slavery to Jim Crow era networks of resistance to the visibility new industry and materials afford. Kiwanga is the recipient of the 2018 Sobey Art Award, Canada's most prestigious contemporary art prize and the List Center exhibition is her first major presentation at a US museum.

Safe Passage premieres a new series of sculptural works that take their point of departure from colonial-era "lantern laws," laws enacted in Boston and throughout New England in the late 1700s. These laws, first passed in New York earlier in the 1700s, required any non- white person to carry a lit candle after dark as a means of identifying and tracking their

movement. Kiwanga will also present an ambitious suite of 21 prints, sourcing material from the 1961 issue of *The Traveler's Green Book*. This annual state-by-state listing printed from 1936-1966, served as a resource to provide safe restaurants, service stations, and lodging for African-American motorists traveling across the country. Kiwanga focuses on 1961, a year at the height of the Jim Crow era in which the Freedom Riders, a mixed race group of civil rights activists rode public interstate buses from Washington, D.C. into the south to challenge the unconstitutional standard of keeping public buses segregated.

Additionally, the exhibition also includes the US premiere of *Jalousie* (2018), a sculpture that incorporates two-way mirrors, and steel that addresses visibility and movement in relation to architecture. Lastly, Kiwanga is producing a site-specific architectural intervention that engages Shade Cloth, an agricultural textile used in large-scale industrial farming around the world. Kiwanga has worked with Shade Cloth in the past, most recently in the US in the production of *Shady* (2018), an outdoor sculpture featured at Frieze NY last May.

Kapwani Kiwanga (b 1978, Hamilton, Canada) studied Anthropology and Comparative Religion at McGill University, Canada followed by post-graduate work at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, France. She has presented solo exhibitions at The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada; the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago, US; La Ferme de Buisson, Noisiel, France; South London Gallery, London, UK; and the Jeu de Paume, Paris, France. Recent group exhibitions include the Hammer Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles; EVA Biennial, Limerick; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; SALT, Istanbul; and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León. Kiwanga is the recipient of the 2018 Sobey Art Award.

Kapwani Kiwanga: Safe Passage is organized by Yuri Stone, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Exhibitions at the List Center are made possible with the support of Fotene Demoulas & Tom Coté, Audrey & James Foster, Idee German-Schoenheimer, Joyce Linde, Jane & Neil Pappalardo, Cynthia & John Reed, and Terry & Rick Stone.

Additional support is provided by Galerie POGGI, Paris; and Étant donnés Contemporary Art, a program of the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation. Étant donnés is developed in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, with lead funding from the Florence Gould Foundation, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Chanel USA, the ADAGP, the French Ministry of Culture, and Institut Français.

In-kind support provided by Stanhope Framers and media sponsorship provided by 90.9 WBUR.

General operating support is provided by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the Council for the Arts at MIT; Philip S. Khoury, Associate Provost at MIT; the MIT School of Architecture + Planning; the Mass Cultural Council; and many generous individual donors. The Advisory Committee Members of the List Visual Arts Center are gratefully acknowledged.



Media Contact:

Mark Linga
Communications Coordinator
mlinga@mit.edu
617-452-3586

