

MIT List Visual Arts Center

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F o r I m m e d i a t e R e l e a s e

MIT List Visual Arts Center

***Open Tunings***

**David Grubbs and Eli Keszler  
Brendan Fowler  
Hannah Weinberger**

**October 10, 2014–January 4, 2015  
Opening Reception: Thursday, October 9, 5–8PM**

**David Grubbs and Eli Keszler live performance event *One and One Less*  
Friday, October 10, 6PM**

**September, 2014 (Cambridge, MA)**—Borrowing its title from a guitar technique by which the instrument is tuned to be strummed with “open,” that is unfretted, strings, this exhibition will present three consecutive, changing installations in sound. Bringing together a group of artists from different disciplinary backgrounds, each project originates with a performance in the exhibition space, which is followed by the presentation of audio or video recordings or objects used in the live event.

Sound and performance are both inherently about time and change. Crossing the boundaries between performing and visual arts, they are in many ways antithetical to conventional gallery display. *Open Tunings* seeks to provide an experimental platform to explore substituting different modes in which those ephemeral forms can inhabit the exhibition space. The three artists, or artist collaborations, present works conceived for the show, variously examining the relationships between architectural space and spatial sound, presence and absence, liveness and recording, improvisation and script.

**David Grubbs and Eli Keszler** open the exhibition series with their collaboration *One and One Less*, a spoken word and percussion performance-installation. Recorded excerpts from Grubbs’s text *One Poem* trigger a range of mechanical strikes within seven custom-made, sculptural sound boxes mounted on the wall. Each box contains an elaborate mechanism of motors and speakers built by Keszler, which acoustically filters the voice, creating a constantly changing composition—equally verbal and percussive—that resonates throughout the exhibition space. Grubbs and Keszler perform their work on Friday, October 10, at 6pm.



**Brendan Fowler**, who has made sculptural wall pieces consisting of several mounted photographs “crashed” together in a kind of performative act, gives one of his trademark vocal performances. Pitched between speech and song, and veering from semi-autobiographical confessional to deadpan social commentary, Fowler plays sparse electronic tracks composed on a Roland SP-404 sampler alongside. Over the course of the subsequent exhibition, the sampler plays back varying combinations of his scores in an attempt, as he says, to develop “a version of my performances without being there.” Fowler’s live performance takes place Thursday, November 6, at 6pm.

Swiss and American artist **Hannah Weinberger** makes sound sculptures using freely accessible sound samples gathered from the web, sourced in sound libraries, or recordings from social gatherings such as art openings. In the past, her laptop performances have assembled groups of non-professional performers playing open-source software on their computers according to her loose directions. This new work builds on her interest in auditory and visual modes of perception, sound and memory, by combining different objects and materials and activating them in a performative and participatory context. A live performance of Weinberger’s work takes place on Thursday, December 11, at 6pm.

#### **Dates**

##### **David Grubbs and Eli Keszler**

Exhibition on view from October 10

Live performance Friday, October 10, 6 pm

##### **Brendan Fowler**

Exhibition on view from November 7

Live performance Thursday, November 6, 6 pm

##### **Hannah Weinberger**

Exhibition on view from December 12

Live performance Thursday, December 11, 6 pm

Performances are FREE and take place in Reference Gallery.  
Capacity is limited, first come first served.

*Open Tunings* is curated by MIT List Visual Arts Center curator Henriette Huldish.

#### **About the Artists**

**David Grubbs** (born in 1967 in Louisville, KY) lives and works in New York City. He is an associate professor in the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, CUNY, where he also teaches in the MFA programs in Performance and Interactive Media Arts (PIMA) and Creative Writing. He is the author of the recently published book *Records Ruin the Landscape: John Cage, The Sixties, and Sound Recording* (Duke University Press). Grubbs has released twelve



solo albums and is known for his collaborations with writers such as Susan Howe and Rick Moody, and with visual artists such as Anthony McCall, Angela Bulloch, and Stephen Prina. Grubbs was a member of the groups Gastr del Sol, Bastro, and Squirrel Bait, and has performed with the Red Krayola, Will Oldham, Royal Trux, Tony Conrad, Pauline Oliveros, and Mats Gustafsson, among many others.

**Eli Keszler** (born in 1983 in Boston, MA) is an artist, composer and multi-instrumentalist who lives and works in New York City. Keszler's installations and visual work have recently used microprocessor-controlled motors to strike, scrape, and vibrate various lengths of piano wire and other materials. These installations are experienced both autonomously as well as in performances featuring Keszler's aggressive, jarringly rhythmic drumming, and often accompanied by a series of abstracted drawings, diagrams, and scores. His work has been shown at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; South London Gallery, London; Centraal Museum, Utrecht, the Netherlands; and Barbican Centre at LSO St. Luke's, London. Keszler has collaborated with artists such as Christian Wolff, Phill Niblock, Tony Conrad, Oren Ambarchi, Joe McPhee, Jandek, Roscoe Mitchell, T Model Ford, Ran Blake, and Ilan Volkov with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music.

**Brendan Fowler** (born in 1978 in Berkeley, CA) lives and works in Los Angeles. Fowler is a multi-disciplinary artist who works in photography, sculpture, and performance. He first became known for his music performances and records released under the name of BARR, and he has performed with Tracy and the Plastics, New England Roses, and Car Clutch, among others. Fowler is the founder of the label VR/DM8H493. His art works have been exhibited at Rivington Arms, New York; Half Gallery, New York; LAXART, Los Angeles; Hezi Cohen Gallery, Tel Aviv; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; A Palazzo Gallery, Brescia, Italy; UNTITLED, New York; Gemeente Museum, The Hague, the Netherlands; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago.

**Hannah Weinberger** (born in 1988 in Filderstadt, Germany) lives and works in Basel, Switzerland. She recently completed her master's degree in fine arts at Zurich University of the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include Fri Art – Centre d'art de Fribourg/ Kunsthalle Freiburg, Fribourg, Switzerland; Swiss Institute, New York; Istituto Svizzero, Milan; and Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the 2013 Lyon Biennale, France; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Kunsthal Charlottenberg, Copenhagen. Writing about her work has been featured in international art publications including *Afterall*, *Artforum*, *Flash Art*, *Frieze*, *Frieze d/e*, and *Mousse*. From 2011 to 2013, she co-ran the project space Elaine at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel, and is currently a residing board member of the Kunsthalle Basel.

## Support

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Office of the Associate Provost at MIT, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the MIT List Visual Arts Center Advisory Committee, and the Friends of the List.



## About the MIT List Visual Arts Center

In 1950 MIT established the Hayden Gallery that was located in the Charles Hayden Memorial Library. The gallery served as a venue for a program of changing exhibitions. In 1985 the Hayden Gallery was renamed the List Visual Arts Center in recognition of a gift from Vera and Albert List that relocated the gallery to its current location on the ground floor of the Wiesner Building which was designed by MIT alumnus I.M. Pei (B.S. Architecture, 1940), and Partners Architects.

Over the years the MIT List Visual Arts Center has become highly respected as one of the most significant university art galleries in the country for its innovative, provocative, and scholarly exhibitions and publications. Just as MIT pushes at the frontiers of scientific inquiry, it is the mission of the List Visual Arts Center to explore challenging, intellectually inquisitive, contemporary art making in all media. In addition to presenting 6-9 exhibitions annually, the List Center presents a broad range of education programs in conjunction with its exhibition programming. The Center maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection of over 3,500 artworks that includes dozens of publicly sited sculptures and hundreds of paintings, prints, photographs, drawings, and sculptures located throughout MIT's campus. The List Center is also responsible for commissioning new works for the MIT Public Art Collection through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, and organizing and administering the Student Loan Art Program, which lends over 500 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

This year the The MIT List Visual Arts Center was chosen by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to present [Joan Jonas](#) as the representative for the United States at La Biennale di Venezia 56<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, on view May 9-November 22, 2015. Jonas, a pioneering figure in performance art and video, will create a new multimedia installation that will transform the entirety of the pavilion's five galleries into a dynamically immersive environment. Joan Jonas' exhibition at the U.S. Pavilion in 2015 will be the third Venice Biennale project the MIT List Visual Arts Center has presented, preceded by *Fred Wilson: Speak of Me as I Am* (2003) (commissioner Kathleen Goncharov) and *Ann Hamilton: Myein* (1999) (commissioners Katy Kline and Helaine Posner).

**Directions:** The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, 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 Street west to Ames Street, turn left, and walk one block to the crosswalk. The MIT 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 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). Paid public parking is also available at the Marriott Hotel on Broadway.



**Gallery Hours:** Tues-Wed: 12-6PM; Thurs: 12-8PM; Fri-Sun: 12-6PM; closed Mondays and major holidays.

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**Additional Information:** 617.253.4680 or <http://listart.mit.edu>

