

Give

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climate changes
in science
fashion

act

MIT program
in art, culture and
technology
School of Architecture + Planning

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com(ment)ic:
wondersuits, fast
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ivy

Shelter

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fall
2010

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MIT

The Give Me Shelter lecture series draws together speakers from different disciplines to discuss questions such as: How can bodywear function as body extension or to support the human body under unusual conditions such as hot and cold climates? How can we expand the notion of the boundary between the body and environment? What kind of second skin would be required to survive walking through a volcano, living under water, or visiting outer space? How does clothing contribute to the question of the protection of endangered peoples and environments?

The lecture series is free and open to the public.

Give me Shelter: second skin for extreme environments?

september 13, 2010

elke gaugele – climate changes in science fashion

As future technologies of the modern augmented self and its geopolitical extensions, proactive clothing was first anticipated at the turn of the century in popular culture, science fiction and art. Since the 1960s, this question has become a fixed part of the cyborg discourse while “science fashions” were shifting from astronautics and military research to wearable computing and smart clothes. The political climate also changed since the Cold War. Artists, architects and fashion designers started to create climate capsules, green wearables and interactive research and communication tools for climate activists. Gaugele will reflect upon these climate changes in “science fashion” and discusses different points of departure for its contemporary artistic research.

Elke Gaugele is a cultural anthropologist and professor of Fashions and Styles at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria.

september 20, 2010

regina maria möller – com(ment)ic: wondersuits, fast skin, poison ivy

Comic superheroes dress in hightech suits that support their hyperactivities with magic powers. Are these “wondersuits” fictional? Or have they become models for current ‘second’ skin developments including survival and performance enhancement suits worn by astronauts, athletes, and others? Möller also discusses the power of nature as personified by the DC Comics supervillainess, Poison Ivy, a key figure in her exhibition, *embodiment - dress plot*.

Regina Maria Möller is a German artist, author, founder of the magazine regina, and creator of the label “embodiment.” She is a professor at the Trondheim Academy of Fine Art / Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

september 27, 2010

laura anderson barbata – 21st century living in the amazon: in the order of chaos

Laura Anderson Barbata worked with the Yanomami people of the Venezuelan Amazon Rainforest, teaching them to make paper and books so they could write their own history. Their first book *Shapono* tells the story of the gods Omawë and Yoawë who taught the Yanomami how to build their home as a communal dwelling. Contact with outsiders has brought with it industrialized materials and solutions integrated by the Yanomami into their building techniques, homes and lifestyle, posing new challenges and problems for traditional tight-knit communities. Barbata will also discuss her project, *Moko Jumbies*, which has engaged at-risk youth in Haiti in the practice of an ancient tradition in community-driven cultural activities to support a strong sense of identity.

Barbata is a professor at the Escuela Nacional de Escultura, Pintura y Grabado La Esmeralda of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, México

october 4, 2010

bulbo – tierra brillante

Bulbo, a Tijuana- and Los Angeles-based media collective, explores cultural, artistic and everyday themes often overlooked or under-represented in mass media. Their documentary, *Tierra Brillante*, spotlights lead poisoning suffered by practitioners of traditional ceramics in Mexico.

ACT

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october 18, 2010

dava newman – second skin bio-suit

With support from the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts and Trotti & Assoc. Inc., Cambridge, Mass., the BioSuit was developed to provide a ‘second skin’ capability for astronaut performance. Processes such as electrospinning and melt-blowing have been used to develop fibers for the suit. A current mockup uses nylon, spandex and urethane layers with varied properties and electronics incorporated into the suit and helmet materials that can have “smart textile” functions relating to physiology (thermal comfort), communications and spatial orientation. Space suit research can lead to improvements in the quality of life here on earth, too, through advances in orthotics that can help children with cerebral palsy and ‘smart orthoses’ for stroke patients.

Dava J. Newman is Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems at MIT She assisted NASA in developing the Bio-Suit.

november 8, 2010

Lauren Bon - Metabolic Studio

Lauren Bon will talk about current projects with her Metabolic Studio, including *Silver and Water*, a film made out of the silver and water historically mined out of the Owens River Valley. The film—to be released in November 13, 2013, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Los Angeles River pipeline—is physically made out of the materials of the valley and developed with the trona excavated from the dry lakebed. She will also discuss *The Anabolic Monument*. The monument is at the site where *Notacornfield* was located—at the other end of the L.A. River, some 240 miles away. Her talk will address how these metabolic works use creative endeavor to galvanize social and political transition within complex bureaucracies such as the Department of Water and Power and the State Park System.

Lauren Bon is an artist and MIT alumna. Her Metabolic Studio is based in Los Angeles.

The ACT Monday night lecture series is organized this term as part of the ACT course of Professor Ute Meta Bauer, *Second Skin / Body Wear*. Artistic Research and Transdisciplinary Studies, in collaboration with the Performance Workshop of Professor Joan Jonas and Introduction to Networked Cultures of lecturer Nitin Sawhney.

mon 7–9 pm

MIT Bartos Theater

Weisner Bldg (E15) Lower Level
20 Ames Street
Cambridge, MA

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directions

Located in Kendall Square, Cambridge.

Take the MBTA red line to the Kendall/MIT stop. Follow Main Street west to Ames Street, turn left, and walk one block.

Ames Street has limited on-street parking. Visitors may park in MIT campus lots after 5PM. (The Hayward Lot is on Hayward Street, off of Amherst Street.)