Give me Shelter

second skin for extreme environments?

09/13/10
elke gaugele: climate changes in science fashion

09/19/10
regina moeller: com(ment)ic: wondersuits, fast skin and poison ivy

09/27/10
laura anderson barbata: 21st century living in the amazon: in the order of chaos

10/04/10
bulbo media collective: tierra brillante

10/18/10
dava newman: second skin bio-suit

11/08/10
lauren bon: Metabolic Studio

ACT

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

lecture series
fall 2010

mondays 7-9 pm
bartos theatre
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?

As future technologies of the modern augmented self and its geopolitical ex- tensions, proactive clothing was first anticipated at the turn of the century in popular culture, science fiction, and art. Since the 1960's, this question has become a fixed part of the cyberdiscourse while "science fashions" were shifting. With astrophysics and nanotechnology reaching to the unreachable and importable 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. Gaugae will reflect upon these climate changes in "science fashion" and discusses different points of departure for its contemporary artistic research.

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

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 supervillain, Poison Ivy, a key figure in her exhibition, embodiment - dress plot.

Régina Maria Möller is a German artist, author, founder of the magazine 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.

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 Omawe and Yoawé who taught the Yanomami how to build their homes and lifestyle, posing new challenges and problems for traditional tight-knit communities. Barbata will also discuss her project, Notacornfield, 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 Graba- do La Esmeralda of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, México

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 Mela Bauer. Second Skin / Body Wear, Artistic Re- search and Transdisciplinary Studies, in collaboration with the Performance Workshop of Professor Joan Jonas and Introduction to Networked Cultures of lecturer Nílin Sawhney.