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**School of the Museum
of Fine Arts Boston**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston presents *For Giving Time*, September 16
2015 Colloquium featuring Raqs Media Collective, Robert Sember of Ultra-red and more

BOSTON, MA (September 10, 2015) The Master of Fine Arts program of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA) is pleased to present the 2015–16 Colloquium *For Giving Time* on September 16 in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's Remis Auditorium. Organized as an integral part of SMFA's Master of Fine Arts program, this annual public event invites rigorous conversation, debate, and an exchange of ideas.

Centered on this fall's SMFA visiting artists, the **Raqs Media Collective** *For Giving Time* will explore our experience of simultaneous temporalities, transnational ancestralities, and other urgent questions regarding contemporary art, social movements, and global mobility. Joining Raqs in these discussions will be invited speakers **Robert Sember** of Ultra-red; SMFA graduate student **Danica Arimany**; SMFA faculty member and curator **Carol Stakenas**; and will be facilitated by artist-scholar **Dalida María Benfield**.

Since 2002, the Master of Fine Arts program at SMFA, in partnership with Tufts University, has offered topics for in-depth examination. Each year visiting artists, curators and critics are invited to join SMFA graduate students, faculty, and the public for presentations and discussions to explore timely issues and aesthetics

For Giving Time

Wednesday, September 16, 6:30–9 pm
Remis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

This event is free and open to the public. Attendees need to obtain free tickets at any MFA kiosk or ticket desk to gain admittance.

About the Participants:

Guatemalan-American artist **Danica Arimany** generates visual experiments to investigate multiplicity within land use, water pollution, and labor. Arimany is currently a second-year MFA candidate at the School of Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA). She has been recipient of the Tufts University Graduate Student Research Award (2014) and the SMFA Montague Travel Grant (2014).

Dalida María Benfield, Ph.D. is an interdisciplinary artist and theorist who engages the possibilities of feminist and decolonial thinking and doing in the context of global information technologies. Her work initiates collective processes of knowledge production and autonomous cultural interventions, with video, the Internet, and print publishing. Her recent transmedia projects create platforms for video, art, and writing. She is the co-founder of Video Machete, a grassroots media collective (1994–2007); founder of the Institute of (Im)possible Subjects, an online transnational feminist journal of art and writing launching in late 2015 with a collective of women writers, researchers, and artists from the U.S., Latin America, Europe, and Asia; and founder of WomenArchiveMedia, an activist-archive project in its early stages of formation. She is formerly Professor and Chair of Art Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1997–2004); Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California-Berkeley (2005–2010); a Fellow and Faculty Associate at Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society (2011–2015); and is currently Core Faculty in the Vermont College of Fine Arts Visual Arts program.

Her work has been exhibited and published widely, most recently in *Social Text: Periscope* and *SALASAB*, Bogotá, Colombia.

Founded in 1992 by **Jeebesh Bagchi**, **Monica Narula**, and **Shuddhabrata Sengupta**, the **Raqs Media Collective** enjoys playing a plurality of roles, often appearing as artists, occasionally as curators, sometimes as philosophical agent provocateurs. Their work, which has been exhibited widely in major international spaces, locates them in the intersections of contemporary art, historical enquiry, philosophical speculation, research and theory—often taking the form of installations, online and offline media objects, performances, and encounters. They live and work in Delhi, based at Sarai-CSDS, an initiative they co-founded in 2000. They are members of the editorial collective of the Sarai Reader series.

Robert Sember is a member of the international sound-art collective, **Ultra-red**. For 20 years, Ultra-red has investigated the contribution experimental sound art can make to political organizing. Sember brings to his work with Ultra-red training in cultural studies and medical anthropology. His ethnographic research in the U.S. and South Africa has focused on governmental and non-governmental service sectors with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment concerns. He currently teaches at The New School's Eugene Lang College in New York City. He was the recipient of a fellowship in 2009–2010 from the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School.

Carol Stakenas is a curator, organizer, and educator whose work is deliberately varied to align artists' practices with new challenges and timely contexts. She has commissioned and produced multidisciplinary public art in remarkable sites from the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage to the Los Angeles Police Department. Recent signature projects include: *Three Weeks in January*, a large-scale public art work by Suzanne Lacy and scores of Los Angeles-based collaborators concerned with violence against women; and Natalie Bookchin's *Now he's out in public and everyone can see*, an 18-channel video installation exploring popular attitudes, anxieties, and conflicts about race. She is currently a member of the SMFA Graduate faculty and is serving as Interim Curator of SMFA Exhibitions and Public Programs. Previously, she was Executive Director of LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) (2005–2013) and Deputy Director/Curator of Creative Time (1994–2003).

Related Exhibitions + Events

Raqs Media Collective: ***Luminous Will***

September 17–October 17, 2015

Mrs. E. Ross Anderson Auditorium + Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 230 The Fenway, Boston MA 02115

September 17: "Luminous Will" Opening Reception, 5–7 pm

September 18: "Closer Look: Dying Inayat Khan (1618–19)," led by Joan Wright, Bettina Burr

Conservator, Asian Conservation Studio, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 3–4:30 pm

September 18: "Lived Histories and the After - Life of Images", Raqs, Homi Bhabha + Abhishek Kaicker in conversation, 6:30–8:30 pm.

About the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:

Founded in 1876 and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), is one of only two art schools in the country affiliated with a major museum—the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Our mission is to provide an education in the fine arts—for undergraduate and graduate artists—that is interdisciplinary and self-directed. This education values cultural, artistic and intellectual diversity; it embraces a wide range of media; it stresses the development of individual vision and its relation to culture in general; it values equally the knowledge gained by thinking and doing; it is deeply engaged with the world as a whole. While the School's mission is constant, its practice is always transforming. For more information about our programs and partnerships, visit www.smfa.edu.