

The parliament of reality

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Morning session: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- 10:30AM Opening remarks by Tom Eccles
- 11:00AM Peter Galison
- 11:15AM Lars Lerup
- 11:30AM Felicity Scott
- 11:45AM Discussion and roundtable moderated by
Olafur Eliasson and Tom Eccles

12:30-2:30PM BREAK FOR LUNCH

Afternoon session: 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

- 2:30PM Andrea Zittel/performance
- 3:15PM Molly Nesbit
- 3:30PM Peter Sloterdijk
- 3:45PM Discussion and roundtable moderated by
Olafur Eliasson and Tom Eccles
- 5:30PM Inaugural ceremony

**In the event of rain, all events will take place in Sosnoff Theater in the
Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts**

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Olafur Eliasson is a Danish-Icelandic artist whose career spans more than 15 years. He was a recent focus of a major retrospective at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (*Take Your Time*), which has traveled throughout the United States to the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Dallas Museum of Art, and is currently on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Eliasson's immersive environments, sculptures, and photographs evoke or incorporate atmospheric conditions and landscapes while foregrounding the viewer's experience of the works. His geometric constructions use multicolored washes; focused projections of light; mirrors; and natural elements such as water, stone, and moss to shift the viewer's perception of place and self. By creating hybrid spaces of nature and culture, Eliasson prompts an intensive engagement with the world and a fresh consideration of everyday life.

Peter Galison received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in both Physics and the History of Science in 1983. His publications include *Image and Logic: A Material Culture of Microphysics* (1997) and *Einstein's Clocks, Poincaré's Maps: Empires of Time*. His most recent book (2007), co-authored with Lorraine Daston, is titled *Objectivity*. His topics of research include the intersection of science with other disciplines, in particular art and architecture. He is on the editorial board of *Critical Inquiry* and was a MacArthur Fellow in 1996. He is currently the Pellegrino University Professor in History of Science and Physics at Harvard University.

Lars Lerup, Dean of the Rice School of Architecture in Houston, Texas since 1993, is a designer and writer whose work examines the intersection of nature and culture in the modern American metropolis, particularly that of Houston. Lerup has lectured and exhibited extensively throughout the world, and his design work includes projects and competitions for new towns, housing, and furniture. He is the William Ward Watkin Professor and the former Albert K. and Harry K. Smith Professor of Architecture at Rice University, and author of a number of books, including *Mobility's Wrath* (2004), *Toxic Ecology: At the Limit of the Entrepreneurial City*, and *After the City* (2000, MIT Press). Born in Sweden, Lerup holds degrees in Engineering, Architecture, and Urban Design, from Helsingborg Technical College in Sweden, UC Berkeley, and Harvard University.

Molly Nesbit, professor of art at Vassar College, teaches and writes on twentieth century art, film and photography. Her two books, *Atget's Seven Albums* (1992) and *Their Common Sense* (2000) summarize a part of this work; it also involves a stream of essays on contemporary art. She is a contributing editor of *Artforum*, has taught at the University of California, Berkeley and Barnard College, Columbia University, and has received many awards, notably from the Guggenheim Foundation and the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Felicity Scott is a historian and theorist of modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism. She is the Assistant Professor of Architecture at Columbia University. She is the author of *Architecture or Techno-Utopia: Politics After Modernism* (2007) She has delivered invited lectures throughout the United States as well as in Europe and Australia and has published widely in journals and edited anthologies. Scott is also a founding co-editor of *Grey Room*, a quarterly journal of architecture, art, media, and politics published by MIT Press since Fall 2000.

Peter Sloterdijk is a renowned German philosopher and a professor of philosophy and media theory at the Karlsruhe School of Design. Sloterdijk studied philosophy, German studies and history at the University of Munich. In 1975 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg. Since 1980 he has published many philosophical works, including the *Critique of Cynical Reason*. In 2001 he was named president of the Karlsruhe School of Design, part of the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe. In 2002 he began to co-host *Im Glashaus: Das Philosophische Quartett*, a program on the German television devoted to discussing key issues affecting present-day society.

Andrea Zittel, an American artist born in Escondido, California, received a BFA in painting and sculpture in 1988 from San Diego State University, and an MFA in sculpture in 1990 from the Rhode Island School of Design. Zittel's sculptures and installations transform things necessary for life into artful experiments in living. Blurring the lines between life and art, Zittel's projects extend to her own home and wardrobe. Influenced by early twentieth century modernist design and architecture, the artist's one-woman mock organization, "A-Z Administrative Services," develops furniture, homes, and vehicles for contemporary consumers with a similar simplicity and attention to order.