



DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKERS SERIES

JOE DAVIS

PUBLIC LECTURE, FILM PROJECTION AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Friday, May 6 2016
Public Lecture 16h
Reception 17h 30

UQAM - Coeur des Sciences
Agora & Chaufferie
175 avenue du Président-Kennedy
(Metro Place des Arts)

ASTROBIOLOGICAL HORTICULTURE

Human history details our transition from groups of hunter-gatherers to communities centered on organized agriculture and the introduction and nurturing of unprecedented varieties plants and animals. Agriculture allowed early civilizations to foster art, religion and literature replete with myths and legends about special powers of transformation allowing one kind of living material to become another or, of transformations of inanimate into animate materials and vice versa. The history of art reflects the quest for control over qualities of vitality and function that distinguish life and death. The dream of science and art is a universe full of life. Creation of the first flowers for a vast garden planets is a logical continuation of long standing aspirations to bring the whole universe to life. In this talk, Joe Davis will present an overview of multifaceted efforts to create such an unusual "garden" for discovery and growth of astrobiologicals.

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Saturday, May 7 2016
Film projection 2pm
Round Table 3pm

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HEAVEN + EARTH + JOE DAVIS

Projection of the feature film Heaven + Earth + Davis (2010)

Thirty years ago, a peg-legged motorcycle mechanic walked into the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT. They had not returned his calls. The police were summoned. Forty-five minutes later he walked out with an academic appointment. Since then Joe Davis has sent vaginal contractions into space to communicate with aliens, encoded poetry into DNA, and designed a sculpture to save the world. It's a great life for a man driven by imagination - except when it's not. No one pays him. He is evicted from apartments and labs. His uncompromising approach to art and life collides with the world's banal requirements. This is a story of self- discovery, sacrifice and the complexity of human endeavor, of the price of art and the ecstatic joy of discovery.

Round table with Marie-Pier Boucher, Marianne Cloutier and WhiteFeather Hunter.

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Visit the Hexagram website for more details concerning this activity, including participants' bios.

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Event curated by François Joseph-Lapointe, Professor Département Sciences Biologiques, Université de Montréal