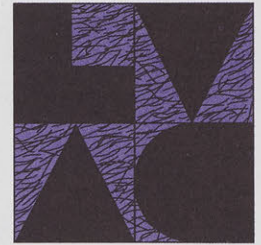


N E W S R E L E A S E

"Miroslaw Balka: Sculpture" Opens at MIT on March 6***Public Reception on March 5 from 5 to 7 pm***

Sculptures by **Miroslaw Balka** will be on view at the List Visual Arts Center opening with a public reception on Friday March 5 from 5 to 7. The artist, who was born in 1958 and lives and works in Otwock, Poland, will be present.

Balka's sculptures allude to the proportions and experience of the human body but could be mistaken for abstract geometry. The artist works with simple sharp-edged forms: boxes, slabs and cylinders which quietly suggest beds, coffins, tombstones, or doors. He chooses hard, worn, industrial materials, occasionally adding softer, often organic substances -- dust, ash, salt, felt or foam rubber. Strange and subtle apertures can suggest eyes or ears or drains. The titles of the works are their proportions and the proportions are always based on the artist's own body.

Despite their size and weight the sculptures deliberately avoid the attention-grabbing monumentality often associated with large-scale abstract work in steel. At MIT the viewer will be able to understand his pieces in situ, for they will be shown in a skeletal but full scale architectural reconstruction of Balka's cramped and multi-chambered workspace.

Peter Schjeldahl writes in the exhibition catalogue "Balka's studio feels close to the center of a world anxiously contemplating questions of the persistence and possible transformation -- destruction or redemption--of the human. It is something a visitor thinks about in Poland."

Balka's work has been widely seen in Europe; he was first shown in the United States last fall at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, which co-organized this exhibition and the accompanying catalogue which contains the first English-language texts on the artist. Partial support for the exhibition has been received from LOT Polish Airlines.

For photos, interviews with the artist or further information contact Ron Platt at (617) 253-4400.