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**Animal Scientist Temple Grandin and artist Wendy Jacob  
Collaborate on *The Squeeze Chair Project*, Travelling to  
MIT List Visual Arts Center January 1998**

**Cambridge, MA, October 1997**--Animal scientist Temple Grandin, well-known for her design of humane livestock handling facilities, and Illinois artist Wendy Jacob, who explores the effects of physical contact and touch in her work, have collaborated on an installation, *The Squeeze Chair Project*, that will be presented at MIT List Visual Arts Center from January 16 through March 22, 1998 with an opening reception to take place Friday, January 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The installation consists of two upholstered "squeeze chairs" which hug the sitter through the use of a foot pump that operates the chairs' movable arms, enveloping the sitter in a kind of embrace. Accompanying the chair are 14 drawings by Grandin. The drawings are of livestock facilities she has designed as well as her own original, personal squeeze apparatus that she built at age 18 based upon animal handling chutes. The personal squeeze apparatus, developed as a means of calming the effects of her autism, a condition she was diagnosed with at age three, provided a mechanical surrogate for a human squeeze or hug, which Grandin found unbearably overstimulating.

The *Squeeze Chair Project* grew out of a three-year dialogue initiated by Jacobs, who had read about Grandin's work as an animal scientist, during which they shared their own particular expertise and understandings of the effects of physical contact. Jacobs worked with Grandin to humanize and soften Grandin's original plywood squeeze machine into a livingroom alternative that anyone might try. Visitors to the gallery are encouraged to sit in and use the two squeeze chairs.

Temple Grandin will give a talk sponsored by the MIT List Visual Arts Center on the campus of MIT on (date) at (time). The talk will be held in the (place on campus) and is free and open to the public. Directions may be obtained by calling 253-9479 (BP number -- or should I put down gallery line?).

*Temple Grandin* is responsible for the design of nearly half of all livestock handling facilities in the U.S. and Canada. She holds a PhD. in animal science from the University of Illinois and is the author of two books, *Emergence: Labeled Autistic* (1986) and the recent *Thinking in Pictures, and Other Reports from My Life with Autism* (1995). She lives and works in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Wendy Jacob is an artist based in Bloomington, Illinois who has exhibited her work in Paris, Cologne, Zurich, New York, and Chicago. She is known for her installations that engage the viewer in explorations related to physical substitutes or surrogates for human touch.

The exhibition was organized by Leslie Brothers, curator, Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

### **How to Get to the MIT List Visual Arts Center**

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St., at the eastern edge of the MIT campus. It is in close proximity to Kendall Square, Memorial Drive, and the Longfellow Bridge.

By T, take the red line to the Kendall/MIT stop, follow Main St. west to Ames St., turn left, walk the distance of about one block to the cross walk and the List Visual Arts Center, housed in a building identifiable by its white gridded exterior, will be on your left. Signage is on the building.

By car, coming across the Longfellow Bridge or from Memorial Drive, follow signs for Kendall Square. Parking is available at the Cambridge Center complex (entrance on Ames between Main and Broadway) during business hours and on campus after business hours and on weekends.

### **Gallery Hours**

Tues. - Thurs., Sat., Sun.    12 - 6 p.m.  
Friday                            12 - 8 p.m.  
closed Monday

### **Information**

617.253.4680 or  
<http://web.mit.edu/lvac/www>

All exhibitions at the List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public.  
Wheelchair accessible.

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