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For Immediate Release

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### **The new Gund Gallery at Kenyon College opens its doors with *Seeing/Knowing***

A beguiling, thought-provoking collection of artworks has been assembled for the inaugural exhibition of the Gund Gallery at Kenyon College.

***Seeing/Knowing***, on view October 29 through March 4, 2012, features 16 internationally renowned award-winning artists working at the intersection of information and image exchange. Their provocative works vary from formal investigations to illustrations of data, expressed through a range of media, from painting to viewer-responsive interactive digital forms.

*Seeing/Knowing* seeks to reflect on two emerging vital economies outlined in Bruce Mau's Institute without Boundaries project "[Massive Change](#)." Information economies have given rise to an unceasing flow of information sources and global interconnectedness; image economies have democratized image sharing, and expanded humanity's visual spectrum from the microscopic to the cosmic. *Seeing/Knowing* asks what happens when these collide?

"All of these artists are engaging with data and information systems," says gallery director and *Seeing/Knowing* curator Natalie Marsh. "Information has so saturated how we think that it's invaded the artistic process. On the other extreme, information may be described as a medium itself."

"This is an attempt to bring a range of established and emerging artists together to reflect on our own cultural moment, in which we are surrounded by information and systems, and producers of it whether we realize it or not. Practically everything we do is tracked and converted into data."

The result is a collection of work that's progressive in its diversity. As Marsh explains, "These artists – painters, media artists, installation artists - don't normally show together. It's indicative of a time in which new media is coming of age."

Julie Mehretu headlines the show. Known for her large-scale canvases, award-winning Mehretu layers information, in the form of architectural and city plans, excavations, the impact of human conflict, computer-generated imagery, all peopled with abstract marks.

Eduardo Kac presents *Genesis*, part of his groundbreaking "transgenic art" process that combines visual art with biotechnology, and Camille Utterback, whose interactive work uses playful methods to link computational systems to human movement. Matthew Ritchie explores the

Marius Watz generates maximalist art in various media from software programs, while Diana Cooper uses everyday materials from foam core to pom-poms to create stunningly intricate works that seek to provoke new emotions.

In respective collaborations with Julius von Bismarck and Andrea Nicholas Fischer, German artist Benjamin Maus presents a mechanical device that perpetually translates a novel into an surreal stream of patent drawings and a sculpture formed by computer translation of a musical score.

The Gund Gallery's opening exhibition encapsulates the mission of the new facility, to help develop greater visual literacy among students, faculty and the community.

"We see ourselves as a place where knowledge is made visible, but also where the act of seeing is valued as an act of knowing," says Marsh.

"So many of these artists, because they engage in information and systems, provide opportunities for the engagement of the many disciplines in a liberal arts context. In linking the discourse of art and visual culture to physics, math, history, literature, we're really trying to build critical thinkers, complete citizens of the world."

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## **CALENDAR LISTING: EXHIBITIONS**

### ***Seeing/Knowing***

**October 29, 2011-March 4, 2012**

The Gund Gallery at Kenyon College

101 ½ College Drive, Gambier OH 43022

Kenyon College's new, 31,000 square-foot facility for visual arts learning opens to the public with works by 16 internationally renowned contemporary artists who combine art and technology to explore the intersection of information and image exchange in contemporary culture. For more information including related public programs, call (740) 427-5972 or visit [www.gundgallery.com](http://www.gundgallery.com).

Hours: 1-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 1-10 p.m. Thursdays; 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.