

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Williams College Museum of Art Presents

*David Rokeby: Taken*

March 9–June 12, 2005

Williamstown, MA— the Williams College Museum of Art (WCMA) presents *David Rokeby: Taken*, a multi-channel video installation by David Rokeby, noted Canadian media artist. Re-created specifically for the Media Field gallery, *Taken* features three live video images of the gallery space projected into gilded frames chosen from the WCMA collection. The exhibition transforms the gallery into a dynamic art space in which visitors are challenged to reconsider their physical relationship to the art they are viewing. The public is invited to attend a lecture by the artist on Wednesday, March 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the WCMA auditorium.

David Rokeby's work explores the relationships between people and technology through interactive sound and video. His installations employ custom-designed software that constructs experiences for viewers by engaging the human body as a dynamic element. In the three-channel video projection, *Taken*, Rokeby creates a surveillance environment that captures the gallery visitors' movements, repeating them at regular intervals, and projects them into three separate picture frames hung on the gallery walls. The results are visually chaotic, historically ordered image streams that serve as a map of the gallery through space as well as time.

This installation is active and engaging; visitors can recognize and locate their own images within the echoing projections of the gallery's past activities. The installation provides a unique perspective of time, heightening awareness of the visitor's relationship to the continuing history of the gallery space. This site-specific installation reveals Rokeby's vision of the museum gallery as an historical and introspective viewing space.

*David Rokeby: Taken* has been organized by Cara Starke, MA '05 from the Williams

College Graduate Program in Art History, with Lisa Dorin, Assistant Curator.

### **About the Artist**

David Rokeby has been creating interactive sound and video installations since the early 1980s. His innovative conceptual and critical approach to technology has earned him international acclaim, and he has exhibited his works extensively in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. His recent awards include Canada's Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts for distinguished career achievement, and Austria's prestigious Prix Ars Electronica Golden Nica for Interactive Art; both awards were received in 2002. Rokeby recently represented Canada at the Venice Biennale 2002—8th International Architecture Exhibition and the XXVI São Paulo Bienal in 2004.

### **Related Events**

On Wednesday, March 9, 2005, David Rokeby will be at the museum to discuss his exhibition. The artist's lecture begins at 4:00 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public. Please check our website for additional events as they are confirmed at <http://www.wcma.org/>.

The Williams College Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the museum is wheelchair accessible. Contact: Suzanne Augugliaro, Public Relations Coordinator, 413.597.3178; [WCMA@williams.edu](mailto:WCMA@williams.edu); [www.wcma.org](http://www.wcma.org).

### **Publicity Images Available**

Publicity images for *David Rokeby: Taken* and other current exhibitions are available for use.