



Lita Albuquerque, *20/20: Accelerando* [film still], 2015

*"She needed to explore the sensation of tones in the interval between stars and in so doing, form a language, a vibratory language that would begin to not only revive her but would also resonate interstellarly and interplanetary, until a tonal language formed that resounded in the depths of all sentient beings, down to the level of their DNA." – Lita Albuquerque, *GenIUS Remembered**

**LOS ANGELES** – USC Fisher Museum of Art is pleased to announce *20/20: Accelerando*, an exhibition of new work by Lita Albuquerque, from January 26 to April 10, 2016. As part of the USC Visions and Voices initiative, a live performance with singers and performers activates the exhibition at its opening from 4-6 pm on January 24, 2016.<sup>1</sup>

In *20/20: Accelerando*, Albuquerque merges film, sound and performance to tell the story of a 25th century female astronaut who lands on Earth in the year 6,000 BC with a mission to seed interstellar consciousness on the planet. Upon entering Earth's atmosphere, she forgets her mission: *"Where was I? And why was I awakening at this moment, on this planet?"*

Her traumatic forgetting, followed by remembrance, dramatizes both who we are and who we may become. A complex gesture of adaptation, *20/20: Accelerando* emerges from *GenIUS Remembered*, a narrative text Albuquerque began writing in 2003 and continues to develop. Dynamically transforming and activating the entire museum, Albuquerque fractures her own narrative into impressionistic passages. Arrayed throughout the galleries, her imagery carries the viewer out of the everyday and into a space of wonderment, triggering memory and mystery. Working in close collaboration with the artist Robbie C. Williamson, who also composed original scores for the film and performance, the installations trace complex metaphors of space, loss and community – pillars that have long anchored Albuquerque's practice.

Long invested in the opportunity of adventure, from the beginning of her practice in the 1970s Albuquerque has sought deserts and remote locations as sites. There, she orchestrated large-scale, ephemeral sculptures in rock and striking pigment. Aligned with natural phenomena such

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<sup>1</sup> Capacity for the performance is limited. Please RSVP through the USC Visions and Voices website: <http://visionsandvoices.usc.edu/2020-accelerando-an-art-opening-and-performance-by-lita-albuquerque/>

as wind, light, stellar alignments and the horizon, Albuquerque contributed to the historic activity of Land Art and Light and Space throughout the American Southwest while also defining a definitively singular vision. In her work, Albuquerque now carefully combines performance with the traditions of sculpture, creating a uniquely symbiotic and imposing art practice. Her most recent elaborations gather hundreds of participants into what she describes as “performative sculpture,” most recently for *Spine of the Earth, 2012*, part of the Getty’s Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival and, *An Elongated Now*, for the Laguna Art Museum’s 2014 Art and Nature Festival.

*20/20: Accelerando* also marks the artist’s landmark return to the USC Fisher Museum of Art. In 1983, the Museum presented Lita Albuquerque, who with architect Bob Kramer and composer Harold Budd created a multi-media installation in projections, sculpture and sound titled *Abhasa*. Galactic images and photographs of Los Angeles at night filled the galleries, intermingling and overlapping with performers and music. Director Selma Holo welcomes Grant Johnson, USC Dornsife Doctoral Fellow, as curator of *20/20: Accelerando*.

Lita Albuquerque (born 1946, Santa Monica) represented the United States at the Sixth International Cairo Biennale, where she was awarded the Cairo Biennale Prize. She has also been the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant for *Stellar Axis: Antarctica*, which culminated in the first and largest ephemeral artwork created on that continent; three NEA Art in Public Places awards; an NEA individual fellowship; a fellowship from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation; a Santa Monica Artist Fellowship for writing and performance work and MOCA’s Distinguished Women in the Arts Award. Her work is held in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Getty Trust, the Whitney Museum of American Art, LACMA, and MOCA, among others.

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#### **About the Museum:**

The USC Fisher Museum of Art - established in 1939- is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center for intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC’s goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC’s present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists’ talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

Located on the USC campus.  
823 Exposition Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90089

Admission is free.

#### **Museum Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm  
Saturday 12-4pm

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