



MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) Backgrounder

CAST Mission & Leadership

CAST is committed to fostering a culture at MIT in which the arts, science and technology thrive as interrelated, mutually informing modes of exploration, knowledge and discovery. Established in 2012 in the Office of the Provost with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which has been renewed through Academic Year 2020, CAST facilitates and creates opportunities for exchange and collaboration among artists, engineers, scientists and humanities scholars.

Led by Evan Ziporyn, Faculty Director and Leila W. Kinney, Executive Director, CAST is a joint initiative of the Office of the Provost, the dean of the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) and the dean of School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS).

CAST Activities at MIT & Beyond

- Soliciting and supporting cross-disciplinary curricular initiatives that integrate the arts into the core curriculum and create new work or materials, media and technologies for artistic expression.
- Producing a Visiting Artists Program that emphasizes artists' creative processes, and fosters cross-fertilization among disciplines and extensive interaction among artists and MIT faculty, students, and researchers.
- Supporting the curation of performing and visual arts or design relevant to the research of engineers, scientists, and the MIT community as a whole.
- Disseminating the creative and intellectual production supported by the Center to the broader public through publications, exhibitions, performances and symposia.

Collaborators on Campus

A center without walls, CAST involves students, faculty and staff from throughout the Institute with offices located in several locations on the MIT campus.

CAST collaborates with departments across MIT's broad spectrum of disciplines—with campus-wide partners including MIT's Art, Culture and Technology Program, Music and Theater Arts, MIT Museum, List Visual Arts Center, Department of Architecture, Department of Urban Planning, Center for Advanced Urbanism, Media Lab, Edgerton Center, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL), Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS), Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, and Tata Center for Technology and Design, Theoretical Physics.

CAST Visiting Artists Program

CAST's Visiting Artist Program continues a 40-year tradition of bringing visiting artists to MIT. The program is distinctive for its emphasis on the research and development phase of artistic work. In addition to presenting new work, residencies embed artists in the cutting-edge research and teaching at MIT, where scientists and engineers are open to artists' speculative and hands-on way of working. The program hosts artists from a wide range of visual and performing arts disciplines each academic year, exposing students to new creative processes and fostering cross-fertilization among disciplines. Each

visiting artist's residency also includes a public programming component, with artists participating in public events such as lectures, concerts, workshops, and film screenings.

More than 35 artists from a variety of disciplines have come to collaborate with MIT students, faculty, and researchers through CAST, including visual and media artists, such as Tomás Saraceno (the Inaugural CAST visiting artist), Vik Muniz, Anicka Yi, Karim Ben Khelifa, Tauba Auerbach, John Akomfrah and Lina Gopaul, Katerina Cizek and performing artists, such as Terry Riley, Pamela Z, Roomful of Teeth, Ge Wang, Pilobolus, and Alvin Lucier.

Additionally, CAST offers a Distinguished Visiting Artist Residency. Distinguished Visiting Artists are appointed by the CAST Executive Committee for two year terms. Department heads and program directors may submit nominations a year before for the next round of Distinguished Visiting Artists. The inaugural Dasha Zhukova Distinguished Visiting Artist is Pedro Reyes whose residency begins in the 2016-17 academic year. Maya Beiser is the inaugural Mellon Distinguished Visiting Artist whose residency starts in Spring 2017 when she will perform two concerts, including one part of the CAST symposium "Being Material."

The full roster of CAST visiting artists and related projects is available here: <http://arts.mit.edu/visiting-artists-roster/>

Additional CAST Initiatives

CAST encompasses a number of initiatives beyond the Visiting Artist Program, including:

Curriculum Development

CAST supports cross-disciplinary curricular initiatives that integrate the arts into the core curriculum of all MIT students. A dozen classes have been taught with support from CAST, including courses led by visiting artists that CAST has brought to campus. Classes have included courses such as Music and Technology, Design Across Scales, Automatism in Art and Architecture, Sound Installation and Sonic Practice, Exhibiting Science, Architecture Design Fundamentals, The Harmonic Archive: Music, Sound and Art Installation as Artistic Research, among others.

MIT Sounding Series

MIT Sounding is an annual series presented by CAST, with support from the School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, and the Music & Theater Arts program. Curated by CAST Faculty Director Evan Ziporyn, the innovative performance series begins its third season in academic year 2016-17. Previous seasons have featured performances by Terry Riley, Alvin Lucier, Pamela Z and Roomful of Teeth, among other artists.

CAST Symposium

A central CAST initiative is a biennial symposium that brings together artists, scientists, engineers and humanists around topics of common concern. The first symposium, entitled "Seeing / Sounding / Sensing," took place in 2014 and was an intensive two-day event at MIT that invited creative artists to join with philosophers, cognitive neuroscientists, anthropologists, historians and scholars from a range of disciplines in an open-ended discussion about knowledge production. A new book *Experience: Culture, cognition and the common sense*, issued from the symposium and was released by MIT Press in Fall in 2016. The next symposium "Being Material" will take place in April 2017.

Funding for CAST

CAST is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, individual donors, the Associate Provost with responsibility for the Arts, and the Deans of the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. CAST received a renewal grant from the Mellon Foundation extending through 2020, which will allow us to build a solid foundation for the future of the Center.

Facts and Figures

- The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) was founded in 2012.
- Now in its fourth academic year of operation, CAST has supported over 100 programs. These programs include: 22 lectures, 31 performances, 18 workshops, 9 symposia, 20 cross-disciplinary classes and 11 exhibitions, with participation from 35 Visiting Artists and music ensembles.
- Students from a diversity of majors, including materials science, mathematics, anthropology, building computation and art and architecture, participated in course offerings, while many more attended public programs.
- Since its inception in 2012, CAST has been the catalyst for more than 35 artist residencies and collaborative projects with MIT faculty and students.
- More information at arts.mit.edu/cast

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