



About the Arts at MIT

Mission

The arts at MIT connect creative minds across the Institute's many disciplines and encourage a lifetime of exploration and self-discovery. Rooted in experimentation, risk-taking, and imaginative problem solving, the arts at MIT strengthen the Institute's commitment to the aesthetic, human, and social dimensions of research and innovation and are essential to MIT's mission to build a better society and meet the challenges of the 21st century. The arts have been an integral part of MIT since its founding—with artistic knowledge and creation exemplifying the school's motto, *mens et manus*, mind and hand.

Academics

For MIT, the dynamic intersection of art, science, and technology is the essential foundation for achieving institutional excellence. To support that mission, the study, creation, and performance of the arts are integrated across MIT's campus, and all undergraduates are required to take at least one course in the arts and humanities.

Nearly 80 percent of MIT's incoming students have prior art training and many continue to cultivate their talents through MIT's robust arts curriculum, which offers majors, minors, and concentrations in many artistic disciplines, including Music; Writing; Theater Arts; the History of Architecture and Art; Comparative Media Studies; and Art, Culture, and Technology.

Home to the first architecture program in the U.S., MIT's campus features buildings designed by noted architects, including alumnus I. M. Pei, as well as Eero Saarinen, Steven Holl, Alvar Aalto, Fumihiko Maki, and Frank Gehry.

Faculty and Alumni

Notable MIT alumni include visual artists Jennifer Allora and Jill Magid, architect I. M. Pei, electronic musician Ned Lagin, and creator of Guitar Hero Eran Egozy. Arts faculty include Junot Diaz, writing; John Harbison, music; Joan Jonas, visual art; Tod Machover, Media Lab; and Jay Scheib, theater.

Public Art, The List Visual Arts Center, and The MIT Museum

In addition to the integration of site-specific works of art across campus—including works by major artists such as Sol LeWitt, Matthew Ritchie, Alexander Calder, Sarah Sze, and Anish Kapoor, among many others—MIT is also home to two museums: the List Visual Arts Center, a creative laboratory that provides artists with a space to research new ideas, experiment freely, and push existing boundaries to create work at the vanguard of contemporary art; and the MIT Museum, dedicated to engaging the wider community with the global impact of MIT's science and technology research and scholarship and present works at the intersection of art, science, and technology.

Media Lab

In line with the creative and collaborative approach across disciplines that defines the Arts at MIT, the Media Lab is a research laboratory that actively promotes unconventional mixing and matching of different research areas to create disruptive technologies. There are approximately 400 active research projects annually, including many that create new technologies for artistic expression, ranging from hyperinstruments to holography, wearable computing, and new imaging platforms.

Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST)

The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST), established in 2012, facilitates and creates opportunities for exchange and collaboration among artists, engineers, scientists, humanists, and social scientists. CAST's activities include: soliciting and supporting cross-disciplinary courses; commissioning, curating, and performing adventurous art; presenting performances, exhibitions, installations, and symposia; supporting arts research; and sponsoring a robust visiting artist program.

In September 2014, "Seeing / Sounding / Sensing"—the first in a projected biennial series of CAST Symposia—was focused on a dialogue among artists, humanists, and neuroscientists and featured Tomás Saraceno, Tauba Auerbach, and Alvin Lucier.

MIT's Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST)'s visiting artists program brings internationally acclaimed artists in all disciplines to campus, in partnership with academic departments, laboratories, and research centers from across the Institute, including the List Visual Arts Center. Contemporary artists are invited to MIT to explore the most recent technological breakthroughs, experiment with state-of-the-art resources, and collaborate with faculty, students, and researchers on adventurous projects. Current and previous Visiting Artists include Trevor Paglen, Tomás Saraceno, Tauba Auerbach, Katarina Cizek, Vik Muniz, Mel Chin, and Rick Lowe, among hundreds of others.

The most distinguished artist residency accompanies the \$100,000 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT, established in 1974. Recent recipients are Olafur Eliasson (2014), Robert LePage (2012), and Gustavo Dudamel (2010). The 2016 recipient will be announced in Fall 2015.

For more information, visit: <http://arts.mit.edu>