

Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs

The mission of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs is to connect MIT students to the arts. The student programs managed by Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs are the List Foundation Fellowship Program, Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program, Promoting the Arts Through Design, Art Scholars, Art Representatives, the juried Student Origami Exhibit, the Graduate Arts Forum, the annual Student Mural Competition, and the Student Art Association (SAA). The Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program brings both renowned and emerging artists to campus for periods ranging from three days to a semester. Designed to complement courses and advance cross-disciplinary work, these residencies offer insights into different cultures and different ways of looking at familiar problems.

Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs Sponsorship

In addition to Institute support from the provost and the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs received support from the Council for the Arts at MIT, the William L. Abramowitz Fund, the Ida Ely Rubin Artists-in-Residence Fund, the Alan H. Katzenstein Memorial Fund, and the Eugene McDermott Award Fund.

Student Programs

List Foundation Fellowship Program in the Arts

The List Foundation Fellowship Program in the Arts, which has supported individual undergraduate creative work in the performing, literary, visual, and media arts since AY2004, continued with support from the provost. The program is for MIT students exploring personal, racial, and cultural identity who are US citizens or permanent residents.

The 2004–2005 recipient, Dang Vu '06 (biology), presented his project, “The Poison Clan Suite: A Celebration of Mutant Culture,” through a five-piece concert suite for the rock trio Living Incense during the fall. Vu’s Vietnamese guitar teacher, Vo Thanh Binh, and Vietnamese lute player Nam Chinh also demonstrated the music Vu studied for his project. His mentor was cornetist and composer Taylor Ho Bynum, and his faculty advisor was media arts and sciences associate professor Joe Paradiso.

Nadeem Mazen '06 (mechanical engineering), the 2005–2006 recipient for his project “Save the Hijab Princess: A Look at Muslim-American Culture Through Fiction and Film,” presented excerpts from his film at the annual Muslim Student Association dinner in May. His mentor was graduate student Amanda Finkelberg (comparative media studies), and his faculty advisor was mechanical engineering professor Kamal Youcef-Toumi. At the time of this writing, Mazen’s project was not yet complete.



2004–2005 List Foundation fellow Dang Vu '06. Photo by Omari Stephens.

Past recipients selected two awardees for 2006–2007. Louis Fouché '07 (chemical engineering) was chosen for his musical composition and performance project “Gumbo Latino: Exploring New Orleanian and Puerto Rican Roots.” His faculty advisor is writing and humanistic studies associate professor Junot Díaz. Also, EunMee Yang '07 (biology) was selected for her documentary film and mixed media (sculpture and painting) project “Tracing My Life with Kimchi.” Her faculty advisor is List Visual Arts Center education/outreach coordinator Hiroko Kikuchi.

Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program

The Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program (FASAP) completed its fourth full year with three seminar sections led by associate professor Junot Díaz (writing and humanistic studies), assistant professor Brian Robison (music and theater arts), and SAA coordinator Clay Ward. FASAP participants benefited from various arts excursions and special on-campus presentations.



Adelaide Fuller, Ashley Micks, and Alex Guerra make body casts during a FASAP plaster workshop. Photo by Irene Brisson.

Optional excursions throughout the year included a tour of the Thomas Hirschhorn show *Utopia, Utopia*, at the Institute for Contemporary Art; a performance of the Theater Offensive production of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*; *Ten's the Limit*, a dance concert at Green Street Studios; Dang Vu's List Foundation Fellowship Program concert; the Abramowitz Memorial

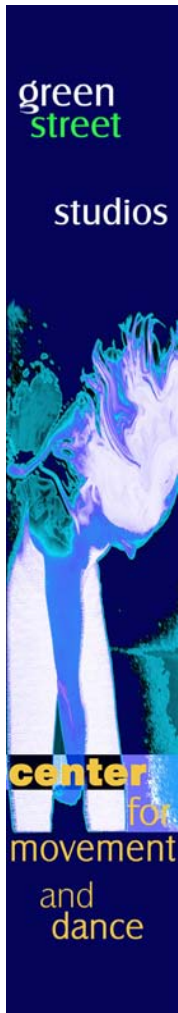
Mandatory events in the fall highlighted theater, dance, the visual and literary arts, and music. They included MIT's Collision Collective opening at Art Interactive in Cambridge, author Haruki Murakami's talk at MIT, a poetry reading at the Institute for Contemporary Art's art site (The Ark), a performance of Berlioz and Shostakovich works by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a production of *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, a performance of the Martha Graham Dance Company, plaster casting and installation workshops with Visual Arts Program technical instructor Charlie Mathis, a digital music workshop with Professor Brian Robison, a dance workshop with local break-dancing instructor Anthony Cabrera, and an Arts Share event where students presented and shared their art with the other students in the program.



FASAP dance workshop with Anthony Cabrera. Photo by Irene Brisson.

Lecture by Bronx-based graffiti artists Tats Cru; and the concert *Cyberspace Adventure* by Boston Musica Viva.

Promoting the Arts Through Design



Promoting the Arts Through Design project for 2005–2006.

Promoting the Arts Through Design, in its second year, continued the momentum of the students from FASAP into the spring term. This class, a Public Service Design Seminar in the arts through the Edgerton Center and the Public Service Center, was created to involve undergraduates in the local art scene by nurturing their skills in design to support an arts organization. This year, students worked with Green Street Studios, a movement and dance center supporting both established and emerging professionals as well as students and the wider public. Students visited the organization's premises and analyzed its need for signage. During the seminar meetings, graduate student instructor Elizabeth Kwak guided students through the process of design. They negotiated and learned about dealing with a client, graphic and structural design, and basic fabrication. By the end of the semester, the students had designed and constructed mounting hardware for a new sign and completed a graphic design to be professionally printed for the sign.

Arts Scholars

The Arts Scholars Program works to nurture and challenge MIT students who are committed to working in one or more disciplines in the arts and who wish for more interaction with fellow student and faculty artists and more exposure to the rich resources of the Boston area. It is open to rising sophomores, juniors, seniors, and master's-level graduate students regardless of major. This year, the eighth year of the program, 45 students participated. The number of students will be limited to 40 for the upcoming year. The mission of the Arts Scholars Program is to be an interdisciplinary community of undergraduate and master's-level graduate students in which students, in conjunction with the coordinator and student planning committee, plan events and excursions.

Events included *N (Bonaparte)* by Pilgrim Theater with MIT students and faculty; *The UnPossessed* (through CrashArts) and *Sweeney Todd* in New York City; classical performances by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Handel and Hayden Society; jazz performances by Dulce Pontes and local harpist Deborah Henson Conant; a concert by contemporary rock group Antony and the Johnsons; dance performances by Savion Glover, MOMIX, and the Boston Ballet, including a trip backstage to view the technical set-up of the Wang Theater; tours of the Christian Jankowski exhibit at the List Visual Arts Center with curator Bill Arning, the Museum of Fine Arts's Ansel Adams exhibit, and the Whitney Biennial in New York City; and the *Mirrorball* international music video screening. Also, the program held a general meeting at the beginning of the year, and students presented and shared their art with other students in the program at an Arts Salon during the spring semester.

Art Representatives

The art representatives form a network of arts ambassadors in every dorm and living group and some graduate departments. Dinners were held once a term to provide the representatives with opportunities to meet, discuss the program, and learn about upcoming events and opportunities. Communication with these individuals is maintained through a weekly email calendar of upcoming arts events at MIT. Art representatives distributed materials related to this year's residencies by Jewlia Eisenberg, Katia Lund, and Cory Doctorow to their constituencies.

Student Origami Exhibit

The fourth annual student competition was juried by origami specialists associate professor Erik Demaine (Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science), visiting scientist Martin Demaine, and alumnae Elsa Chen, Anne LaVin, and Jeannine Moseley. The submissions were exhibited in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery from February 23 to March 15, 2006. OrigaMIT, Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs, and the office of Erik Demaine cosponsored the competition. This year's winners were graduate student Brian Chan (mechanical engineering), Andrea Hawksley '07 (brain and cognitive sciences), Jason Ku '09 (mechanical engineering), Aviv Ovadya '09 (electrical engineering and computer science), and Lisa Song '08 (earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences).



Best Original Model in 2006 Student Origami Competition: 'Nazgul' by Jason Ku '09.

Graduate Arts Forum

This was the third year for the Graduate Arts Forum, which is aimed at building an interdisciplinary community of graduate students who create art as part of their graduate studies or independently. It provides students experience in presenting their work and an opportunity to discuss and learn from each other's work.

Students in the Department of Architecture; Comparative Media Studies Program; History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art Program; Media Arts and Sciences Program; Program in Science, Technology, and Society; Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL); and Visual Arts Program were targeted. This year's forum topics were: "Body," graduate students Marisa Jahn (visual arts) and Gemma Schustermann (media arts and sciences), moderated by theater arts guest artist-in-residence Edisa Weeks; "Light," graduate students Jeff Lieberman (media arts and sciences) and Ben Wood (visual arts), moderated by materials science and engineering postdoctoral associate Ryan Wartena; "Place," graduate students Azra Aksamija (history, theory, and criticism) and Joe Dahmen (architecture), moderated by visual arts assistant professor Wendy Jacob; and "Sound," graduate students Amber Frid-Jimenez (media arts and sciences) and Noah Vawter (media arts and sciences), moderated by Rubin artist-in-residence Ann Lislegaard.

Student Mural Competition



Winner of 2006 Student Mural Competition: *The Tree* by Rene Chen '07. Photo by Irene Brisson.

The third annual Student Mural Competition was held in April 2006. The winning submission, *The Tree* by Rene Chen '07 (material science), was created with acrylic on wood panel in an SAA acrylic painting class taught by Matthew Mazzotta, head of the drawing, painting and open studio. The mural was unveiled on Stata's Student Street on May 12, 2006. It will be on display until May 2007.

The panel of judges consisted of representatives from four units within the Stata Center: assistant professor Jovan Popovic (CSAIL), associate professor Michel DeGraff (Department

of Linguistics and Philosophy), graduate student Guy Weichenberg (Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems), and technical instructor Mary Caulfield (Writing and Communication Center).

Student Art Association

SAA is a space for hands-on exploration of the visual arts. Offering more than 60 student-focused noncredit classes during the fall, spring, summer, and Independent Activities Period, SAA serves more than 500 MIT community members each year. SAA offers 24-hour access to students enrolled in our ceramics, photography, drawing, painting, and open studios.

In 2005–2006, coordinator Clay Ward improved SAA through the following efforts: establishing the SAA Advisory Committee; hiring Matthew Mazzotta as drawing, painting, and open studio head; establishing SAA within MIT's Environment, Health, and Safety Management System; rebuilding the photography studio's plumbing; building the drawing, painting, and open studio cabinets and shelving; abating the asbestos floor tiles of the ceramics studio; rebuilding the ceramics studio shelving; making internal fund-raising appeals to the Council for the Arts and the associate provost for the arts; and purchasing new equipment, including a new printing press, slab roller, bench grinder, easels, throwing wheels, and cameras.

Artist-in-Residence Program

The AiR Program provides MIT students with opportunities to interact with nationally and internationally recognized artists through master classes, lecture-demonstrations, performances, and workshops. By providing students with opportunities for direct involvement with diverse artists and artistic practices, the AiR Program encourages creative thinking and personal expression and promotes cultural affirmation through the arts. It also enriches curricular innovation and promotes interdepartmental collaboration.

In support of the mission to bring internationally recognized artists to MIT, Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs maintained the contact previously established with artists and arts organizations in South Africa, Cuba, Taiwan, and Brazil. This year a Brazilian filmmaker was brought to campus, and the 2007–2008 Rubin selection was also a direct result of arts scouting efforts.



While in Japan, Irene Brisson, Toshihide Otowa (Benesse Art Site), Michèle Oshima, and Kumiko Ehara (Benesse Art Site) explore the installation Cultural Melting Bath: Project for Naoshima by Cai Guo Qiang (2003–2004 Rubin artist-in-residence). Photo by Clay Ward.

In November, a team consisting of student coordinator Irene Brisson '05 (architecture), director Michèle Oshima, and Clay Ward traveled to Japan on a nine-day arts scouting mission. The purpose of the trip was to view the Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art and to become familiar with the arts scene in Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto, Yokohama, and Naoshima). Among the many individuals at MIT making invaluable contributions to the success of this trip were graduate student Louis Berrios-Negron (architecture); Pat Gercik of the MIT Japan Program; associate professor Ian Condry of Foreign Languages and Literatures; Hiroko Kikuchi, List Visual Arts Center education/outreach coordinator; and graduate student Andrew Brooks (electrical engineering and computer science). In addition, the incredibly welcoming and helpful hosts in Japan were Edson Miyamoto '99 (PhD in brain and cognitive sciences), Janet Tobari, Sachiko Sugiura of the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and Sumie Yoshioka, Benesse Art Site. The 2006–2007 Rubin artist-in-residence selection of Noboru Tsubaki was a direct result of this trip.



Irene Brisson, graffiti artist and clothing designer yas5, and Clay Ward enjoy the deck of the Yokohama (Japan) International Port Terminal, designed by Foreign Office Architects. Photo by Michèle Oshima.



Irene Brisson, Cecilia Olsson, and Magda Fernandez in front of the Swedish Nobel Academy. Photo by Michèle Oshima.

In June, Brisson, Oshima, and Council for the Arts administrative assistant Magda Fernandez went on an arts scouting trip to the Nordic countries, where they met with many artists and arts organizations. The goals of the trip were to become familiar with the arts scenes in Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway; to scout for artists-in-residence candidates; and to communicate the mission of the MIT Office of the Arts to international institutions. The following individuals from MIT were invaluable to the trip's success: Ute Meta Bauer, director of the Visual Arts Program; Ann Lislegaard, Copenhagen-based artist and 2005–2006 Rubin artist-in-residence; Finnish-born Pia Lindman '99 (MS in visual studies), the 2006–2007 CSAIL departmental artist-in-residence; Thomas DeFrantz, associate professor of music and theater arts; Jay Scheib, assistant professor of music and theater arts; William Uricchio, codirector of comparative media studies; Timo Somervuo '06 (electrical engineering and computer

science); Lauri Kauppila '07 (aeronautics and astronautics); and Ásta Sveinsdóttir '04 (philosophy). Also, Juha Huuskonen in Finland, Cecilia Olsson of the Swedish Program at Stockholm University, and Sten Are Sandbeck of the Office of Contemporary Art in Norway were incredibly helpful in making local contacts. Fruitful connections were established, and several artists will be proposed as candidates for residencies. The hope is that more Nordic artists will be brought to MIT in the future.

Named Residencies

The 2006 William L. Abramowitz Program brought Bronx-based graffiti artists Tats Cru to campus. Tats Cru members BG183, Bio, Nicer, How, Nosm, and Ruby Red participated during both visits. In addition to delivering a public talk in September, visiting a comparative media studies class, and visiting many labs and installations, Tats Cru led two workshops for students: one to help them develop and translate their reactions to Hurricane Katrina into illustrations and one on spray paint graffiti. Students enjoyed Tats Cru and their work so much that graduate student Andrew Brooks spearheaded efforts to raise funds from the Council for the Arts to have Tats Cru return in May to make a memorial banner mural in honor of James E. "Big Jimmy" Roberts Sr., the night watchman for East Campus and Senior Haus who died a year ago. Tats Cru has generously introduced graffiti artists all over the world to the Office of the Arts staff.



Nicer of Tats Cru works leads participants in a post-Hurricane Katrina workshop. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Arts.



Tats Cru poses in front of the completed Big Jimmy Memorial Mural. From left: Ruby Red, Nosl, Bio, BG183, Nicer, and How. Photo by Jim Medcraft.

The 2005–2006 Katzenstein Residency was held by composer and singer Jewlia Eisenberg. Eisenberg had many fruitful meetings across campus, including visits to CSAIL and the Media Lab and encounters with architecture head and professor Yung Ho Chang, architecture associate professor Nasser Rabbat, architecture assistant professor John Ochsendorf, and literature lecturer Howard Eiland. In addition, she visited comparative media studies and music composition classes. The residency culminated with a free concert jointly sponsored with the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies featuring Eisenberg and her three-woman a cappella group, Charming Hostess. The other two members of Charming Hostess, Marika Hughes and Cynthia Taylor, came to campus for the last day of the residency. Eisenberg has continued to collaborate with graduate students Michael Ramage and David Merrill on two projects.



Charming Hostess. From left: Cynthia Taylor, Jewlia Eisenberg, and Marika Hughes. Photo by Omari Stephens.

The 2004–2005 Rubin artist-in-residence, Oscar-winner Michel Gondry, completed his residency in April 2006. He generously arranged for a sneak preview of his new film, *The Science of Sleep*, through the Lecture Series Committee. Gondry explored analog and digital means of representing the Big Bang with students from CSAIL, mechanical engineering, media arts and sciences, and electrical engineering and computer science. He is continuing to collaborate with several members of the MIT community, including media arts and sciences postdoctoral associate Barbara Barry.

The 2005–2006 Rubin residency was held by Norwegian-born, Danish-based video and light artist Ann Lislegaard. Lislegaard conducted critiques with all of the Visual Arts Program graduate students. During her visit in late fall, she was trailed by a documentary film crew from Zentropa Studios. The crew is making a film on the intersection of art and technology and will include a segment on the Artist-in-Residence Program at MIT. Lislegaard had many stimulating meetings with writing faculty Junot Díaz and Joe and Gay Haldeman; Visual Arts Program professors Ute Meta Bauer, Joan Jonas, Wendy Jacob, Julia Scher, and Antonio Muntadas; Center for Advanced Visual Studies staff members Larissa Harris and Meg Rotzel; theater arts assistant professor Jay Scheib; and List Visual Arts Center curator Bill Arning. She also met with visiting artists and curators Bill Mittelman, Benjamin Weil, and Simon Starling and visited architecture associate professor Takehiko Nagakura’s class. She will return this fall to create a sound piece with Scheib.

Department-based Residencies

During 2004–2005, the School of Architecture and Planning, Sloan School of Management, and School of Science did not host any artists-in-residence funded by the Office of the Arts.

In the School of Engineering, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science Frédo Durand arranged for music video maker and commercial producer Olivier Gondry to visit the Institute in the spring. Gondry, a talented technical wizard, gave a public talk at MIT and, along with Professor Durand, worked with several CSAIL graduate students to solve technical problems in video making.

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences hosted a pair of artists-in-residence. Both of these residencies were extremely well received, and the public components were well attended. The Music and Theater Arts Section hosted the Endellion String Quartet. The Comparative Media Studies Program hosted science fiction writer and blogger Cory Doctorow. The Doctorow residency was excellently run by graduate student Alicia “Kestrell” Verlager.

The Office of the Arts hosted Brazilian filmmaker Katia Lund for a week in the spring. She visited many classes in the Visual Arts Program, comparative media studies, foreign languages and literatures, and management. Lund also met individually with several of the budding filmmakers at MIT and with members of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Sloan Brazilian Club.

Staffing News

Associate provost for the arts Alan Brody is stepping down at the end of the school year. The Office of the Arts hosted a farewell luncheon for him in June. We have appreciated Brody's endorsement of growth in and expansion of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs.

The position of program coordinator was filled by a recent graduate of MIT on a one-year contract. Irene Brisson '05 (architecture) joined Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs in July 2005, and Christina Chestnut '06 (mechanical engineering and



Farewell luncheon hosted by Office of the Arts staff members for departing associate provost for the arts Alan Brody. From front left: Mary Haller, Alan Brody, Michelle Hinkle, Michèle Oshima, Lynn Heinemann, Magda Fernandez, and Keith Hampton. Photo by Clay Ward.



Departing program coordinator Irene Brisson with incoming coordinator Christina Chestnut.

(economics) were invaluable to the success of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs. Student staff members Rene Chen '07 (materials science and engineering), EunMee Yang '07 (biology), Amanda Frye '08 (physics and theater arts), Ashley Cantieny '08 (mechanical engineering), and Jamie Mehringer '08 (brain and cognitive sciences) composed the equally essential SAA team.

music) was hired to begin July 1, 2006. SAA coordinator Clay Ward hired Matthew Mazzotta as the part-time head of the drawing, painting, and open studio. Ward, Mazzotta, ceramics studio head Darrell Finnegan, and photography studio head Thery Mislick form the complete permanent staff team at SAA.

Student staff members Patrick Boyle '06 (biology), Kenny Roraback '06 (physics and theater arts), Rachel Valdez '07 (biology), Ashley Micks '09 (aeronautics and astronautics), Allison "Ally" Berke '08 (mathematics), and Yang Yang '09

Michèle Oshima Director

More information about Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs in the Office of the Arts can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/spair/>.