

Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs

The mission of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs is to connect MIT students to the arts through new and existing student programs and the Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program. The student programs managed by Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs are the List Foundation Fellowship Program (LFFP), the Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program (FASAP), Promoting the Arts through Design, Arts Scholars, Art Representatives, the juried Student Origami Exhibit, the Graduate Arts Forum, the annual Student Mural Competition, and the Student Art Association (SAA). The AiR Program brings both renowned and emerging artists to campus for periods ranging from three days to a term. 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, 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 LFFP continued this year with backing from the provost. The program, which has supported individual undergraduate creative work in the performing, literary, visual, and media arts since AY2004, serves MIT students who are US citizens or permanent residents and who are exploring their personal, racial, and cultural identities.

This year, one of two LFFP recipients presented her project, "Taste of Home," over two Saturdays. Working with mentor JaeRhim Lee (SMArch '06), EunMee Yang '07 (biology) explored Korean identity in terms of growing up making kimchee with her mother.

As a result of various insurmountable challenges, LFFP will not continue past this year.

Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program

The Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program (FASAP) completed its fifth year with three seminar sections led by Rebecca Faery (director of first-year writing), associate provost Philip Khoury, and assistant professor Jay Scheib (music and theater arts). FASAP participants benefited from arts excursions and special on-campus presentations.

Mandatory events in the fall highlighted theater, film, the visual and literary arts, and music. They included a viewing of *This Film Is Not Yet Rated*; a talk at MIT by author and playwright (and 2006 McDermott Award winner) Suzan-Lori Parks; a performance of the play *bobrauschenbergamerica* at the American Repertory Theatre; a tour of the List Visual Arts Center's exhibition *Sensorium*; a performance by the New England Philharmonic featuring a world premiere by MIT professor Peter Child; an origami workshop with



During a Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program acting workshop, Stella Gaitani, Monica Kahn, Simone Ovsey, Anushree Subramaniam, and Sonia Jin follow each other's hands. Photo by Christina Chestnut.

Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program dance workshop with Professor Thomas DeFrantz. Photo by Christina Chestnut.



Daniel Bickerstaff during an Arts Share event. Photo by Christina Chestnut.

MIT graduate student Brian Chan; a writing workshop with MIT professor Junot Díaz; a dance workshop with MIT professor Thomas DeFrantz; an acting workshop with MIT professor Michael Ouellette; a robot workshop with Rubin artist-in-residence Noboru Tsubaki; and an Arts Share event at which students presented and shared their art with the others in the program.

Optional excursions throughout the year included a lecture/demonstration by the French dance company Compagnie Franck II Louise; a talk by Paris-based Iranian comic artist Marjane Satrapi; *Fierce Forever VI*, a drag show put on by MIT students and cohosted by comedienne Margaret Cho; the Boston Lyric Opera production of *Madama Butterfly*; the film *Babel* with Media Lab graduate student Luis Blackaller, who worked on the film; performances of *The Sorcerer* by the MIT Dramashop One-Acts and the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players; the film *Running with Scissors*; the Katzenstein Lecture by Los Angeles-based, self-exiled Nigerian author Chris Abani; the Rubin Lecture by Japanese visual artist Noboru Tsubaki; the opening of the 10th show by the MIT-based Collision Collective at Art Interactive; the MIT-based Slippage production of *Queer Theory*, a play by Professor DeFrantz; MIT's Dramashop production of Suzan-Lori Parks's *Imperceptible Mutabilities*; a dance performance by Streb, the company of former MIT Abramowitz artist-in-residence Elizabeth Streb; an alternative rock performance by Andrew Bird at the Berklee Performance Center with Joan As Police Woman opening; and Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and Cirque Eloize performances.

Promoting the Arts through Design

Promoting the Arts through Design, a six-unit seminar, was organized by coordinator of Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs Christina Chestnut through the Edgerton Center. The local organization chosen was the Callithumpian Consort run by Steve Drury, renowned pianist, composer, and New England Conservatory faculty member. Graduate student Dave Merrill (Program in Media Arts and Sciences) was to teach and had developed a syllabus but the class was cancelled due to low enrollment.

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 ninth year of the program, 29 students participated. 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 *Rain* performed by Cirque du Soleil; *I Am My Own Wife* and *The Onion Cellar* at the American Repertory Theatre; *Stomp*; MIT's *Fierce Forever VI* drag performance, cohosted by Margaret Cho; *Doubt* at the Colonial Theatre; classical performances by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Sufi music at the Museum of Fine Arts; dance performances by Ronald K. Brown, former MIT Abramowitz artist-in-residence Elizabeth Streb, and the Compañía Nacional de Danza 2 of Spain; a tour of the

Student Loan Art Program exhibit at the List Visual Arts Center with curator Bill Arning and assistant director David Freilach; a tour of the Cecily Brown exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts with Council for the Arts member Ann Allen; and surrealist short films at the Harvard Film Archive.

Also, a general meeting was held at the beginning of the year, and students presented and shared their art with other students in the program at Arts Salons in both the fall and spring terms. The fall term featured a weekly open studio hosted by the Student Art Association at which students were welcome to work on any and all projects in all artistic genres with the goal of collaboration. The spring Arts Salon featured a screening of the short film *No Screaming*, made by several of the Arts Scholars for the Campus Movie Fest competition.

Art Representatives

The art representatives form a network of arts ambassadors in every dormitory and living group and in many graduate departments, labs, and programs. Dinners were held once a term to provide the representatives with an opportunity to meet, discuss the program, and learn about upcoming events and opportunities. Communication is maintained through a weekly email calendar of upcoming arts events at MIT. Art representatives distributed materials related to this year's residencies by Suzan-Lori Parks and Chris Abani to their constituencies.

Student Origami Exhibit

The fifth annual student competition was juried by origami specialists Erik Demaine, Esther and Harold Edgerton associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science; Martin Demaine, visiting scientist and Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science artist-in-residence; and alumnae Elsa Chen (SB 1989, electrical engineering and computer science) and Jeannine Mosely (SM 1979, EE 1980, PhD



1984, electrical engineering and computer science). Submissions exhibited in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery from November 9–30, 2006. OrigaMIT, Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs, and Erik Demaine's office cosponsored the competition. This year's winners were Brian Chan '01 (graduate student, mechanical engineering), Michael Forbes '08 (mathematics), Jason Ku '09 (mechanical engineering), and Aviv Ovadya '09 (electrical engineering and computer science).

Best Original Design and Best MIT Theme in 2006–2007 Student Origami Competition: 'Mens et Manus II' by graduate student Brian Chan. Photo by Elsa Chen.

Graduate Arts Forum

This was the fourth 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 (CMS); History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art (HTC); Media Arts and Sciences (MAS); the Program in Science, Technology, and Society; the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL); the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP); the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and the Visual Arts Program (VAP) were targeted.

This year's forum topics were: "Framed," presented by graduate students Luis Blackaller (MAS), Steven Moga (DUSP), and Laura Nichols (MAS), moderated by writing lecturer B.D. Colen; "Interactions," graduate students Mark Feldmeier (MAS), Kate James (VAP), and John Rothenberg (architecture), moderated by program coordinator Christina Chestnut; "Corporeality," graduate students Sylvain Bruni (aeronautics and astronautics), Hope Ginsburg (VAP), and Amanda Parkes (MAS), moderated by VAP visiting professor Regina Moeller; "Distortion," graduate students Guy Hoffman (MAS), David Merrill (MAS), and Coryn Kempster (architecture), moderated by CSAIL professor Fredo Durand; "Ambience," graduate students Andres Lombana (CMS) and Owen Meyers (MAS), moderated by graduate student David Merrill (MAS); and "Child's Play," graduate students Barry Kudrowitz (mechanical engineering) and Seth Raphael (MAS), moderated by MAS visiting Martin Luther King professor Dale Joachim

Student Mural Competition

The fourth annual Student Mural Competition was held in March 2007. The winning submission was *Acrylic Dive*, created by Jeff Lieberman (SB 2000, physics and mathematics; SM 2004, mechanical engineering), an MAS doctoral candidate.



Acrylic Dive, graduate student Jeff Lieberman's winning submission in the fourth annual Student Mural Competition, held in March 2007.

Acrylic Dive was created with a high-speed video camera, and, according to Lieberman, "these four images originally comprised a roughly one-tenth-second event. Compositing them together, we are able to view an entire time sequence at once, mapping temporal disparities into those of space." The mural was unveiled on the Stata Center's Student Street on May 3, 2007. It will be on display until May 2008.

The panel of judges consisted of representatives from four units within the Stata Center: Professor Daniel Jackson (CSAIL), associate professor Agustín Rayo (Department of Linguistics and Philosophy), Pardis Parsa (administrative assistant, Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems), and coordinator of writing initiatives Kathleen MacArthur (Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies).

Student Art Association

The Student Art Association (SAA) provides 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 approximately 500 MIT community members each year. SAA offers 24-hour access to students enrolled in ceramics, photography, drawing, painting, and open studios.

In 2006–2007, coordinator Clay Ward (SB 1997, brain and cognitive sciences) created a prospectus designed to attract endowments. With assistance from Office of the Arts administrative assistant Keith Hampton, SAA transitioned away from the use of cash and established the use of credit cards within many of the purchasing, sales, and enrollment systems. SAA also redesigned its headquarters. Drawing, painting, and project studio head Matthew Mazzotta, Shaunalynn Duffy '09 (writing and humanistic studies), and Rene Chen '07 (materials science and engineering) were pivotal in the completion of this project. In addition, Ward has been investigating how MIT's databases communicate in the hope of advocating for more advanced and effective systems for arts communication on campus.

Artist-in-Residence Program

The MIT Artist-in-Residence Program provides MIT students with opportunities to interact with nationally and internationally recognized artists through master classes, lectures/demonstrations, performances, and workshops. By providing students across the campus with opportunities for direct involvement with diverse artists and artistic practices, the 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 contacts previously established with artists and arts organizations in the Nordic countries, Japan, South Africa, Cuba, Taiwan, and Brazil. This year Japanese artist Noboru Tsubaki was brought to campus as a direct result of the arts scouting efforts. Visits were held with the Taipei National University of Arts (Professors Chyi-Wen Yang, Teh-I Chu, and Hwei-Jin Liu), Finnish media artist pioneer Marita Liulia, and South African visual artist Berni Searle.

In October, director Michèle Oshima and program coordinator Christina Chestnut traveled to Austin, TX, on an arts scouting mission. The purpose of the trip was to attend the International Drag King Extravaganza and the Austin Film Festival. T.D. Lockett (SB 2005, math and chemistry) assisted in making the trip a success. The 2007–2008 Katzenstein artist-in-residence selection of Nappy Grooves resulted from this trip.

In March, Chestnut and Oshima went on an arts scouting trip to South Africa, where they met many artists and arts organizations. Purposes of the trip were to become refamiliarized with arts scenes in Cape Town and Johannesburg (Oshima visited South Africa in 2003), scout potential artist-in-residence candidates, and communicate the mission of the MIT Office of the Arts to international institutions. The trip was successful and several artists will be proposed as candidates for residencies. Many thanks to Marcel Botha (SM 2006, architecture) for connecting Chestnut and Oshima to many artists and to two of their most invaluable guides: his mother Alta and brother Ruan. In addition, the trip was made successful through the help of many other people: Claire Abrahamse, Fulbright scholar and incoming MIT graduate student in architecture; Thembinkosi Goniwe, artist and professor at the University of the Witwatersrand; Angus Gibson, filmmaker and former CMS departmental artist-in-residence; Pamela Nichols, director of the Writing Center at the University of the Witwatersrand; Sachiko Sugiura, Kyoto University; and Ursula Scheidegger, mother of Madleina Scheidegger (SB 2003, MEng 2004, computer science). Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs has established fruitful connections and anticipates bringing more South African artists to MIT as artists-in-residence in the future.

On their way back from South Africa, Chestnut and Oshima stopped for several days in the Netherlands to meet more artists and to visit with alumnus Bradley Pitts (SB 2000, SM 2003, aeronautics and astronautics) and former VAP faculty member Julia Scher. Many thanks to Kate Delaney from the Program in Literature for connecting Chestnut and Oshima with curator Roel Arkesteijn in Amsterdam.

Named Residencies

The 2006–2007 William L. Abramowitz Program brought New York–based performance artist, theorist, and Columbia University professor Coco Fusco to campus. In addition to delivering a public talk on her artwork in March, Fusco held a second public event screening her recent film *Operation Atropos*, documenting her experience learning what it is like to be captured and interrogated. The question-and-answer session afterward with former Army interrogator Mike Ritz and Fusco went extremely well. Fusco conducted studio visits with students from HTC, MAS, VAP, and the Department of Architecture. Fusco met students from La Casa and the Black Student Union who had attended teach-ins coordinated by graduate student Francisca Rojas (urban studies) and Richard Burgess '09 (civil and environmental engineering). Army linguist Lynne McCann (graduate student, management) and artificial intelligence researcher Yajun Fang (graduate student, electrical engineering and computer science) provided insight relevant to Fusco's research on current military projects. In addition, Fusco met with Latino graduate students to learn about the tenor on campus for the Latino student body.

The 2006–2007 Katzenstein Residency was held by poet, novelist, musician, and University of California–Riverside professor Chris Abani. The Lewis Music Library cohosted Abani's public reading and jazz saxophone ruminations on Beirut to a full house. In addition to excellent class visits in writing, Abani met with Chocolate City, the African Students Association, researchers in the Media Lab, and students interested in his experience writing transgender characters. Abani was delighted to find faculty and graduate students in DUSP and the Department of Architecture engaged in exploration

of narrative and design. He also had quality encounters with various VAP and writing faculty. Abani's residency led to potential collaborations with DUSP and the Media Lab.

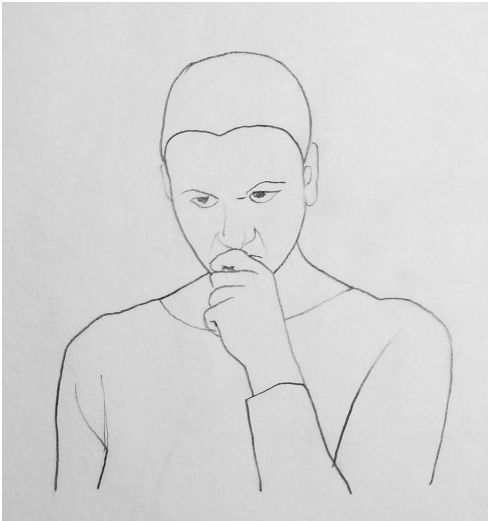
The 2006–2007 Rubin Residency was held by Japanese installation artist Noboru Tsubaki, also an associate professor of human and cultural studies at the Tezukayama Gakuin University in Osaka, head of the Space Design Section at the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and director at the Inter Medium Institute in Osaka. He worked with students and faculty in MAS, CSAIL, sustainable energy, and the Technology and Culture Forum. Tsubaki brought collaborator Tetsuji Katsuda, with whom he led two robot-making workshops. There were fruitful encounters with innovators in the human-powered and alternative energy fields. Tsubaki hopes to bring several to Japan. A memorable component of the residency was a guest spot on WMBR, the campus radio station.

The 2006–2007 McDermott Residency was held by playwright, novelist, and screenplay writer Suzan-Lori Parks. Parks followed up her McDermott Award acceptance in October with a residency in February, when she met with the cast and crew of *Imperceptible Mutabilities of the Third Kingdom*. In addition to visiting a literature class, Parks met with CMS codirector Henry Jenkins, MIT student playwrights, MIT graphic novelists, and MIT storytellers. She toured Rodney Brooks's Robotics Lab, learned about Second Life from MAS graduate student Josh Lifton, and toured the underground of MIT with Madeleine Sheldon-Dante '07 (physics).

Departmental Residencies

In the School of Engineering, CSAIL director and professor of electrical engineering and computer science Rodney Brooks brought visual artist and VAP alumna Pia Lindman to the Institute for the year. While at MIT she worked with graduate student Aaron Edsinger on mimicking his robot Domo. An interdisciplinary team of Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program participants and researchers collaborated on her project. Also, Lindman organized and moderated the panel "Transrobotism: Of Human-Robot Bondage," featuring Rodney Brooks, cofounder of iRobot Corporation; Joy Hirsch, director of the fMRI Research Center, Center for Neurobiology and Behavior, Columbia University; and Sherry Turkle, founder and director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self. Respondents included Peter Galison, Mallinckrodt professor of the history of science and physics at Harvard University, and David Rodowick, philosopher and professor of visual and environmental studies at Harvard.

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences hosted artists-in-residence in the Music and Theater Arts Section. Frederick Harris Jr. hosted saxophonist and Berklee professor Joe Lovano, singer Judi Silvano, and composer/pianist Kenny Werner. In preridency activities, Werner attended an MIT Wind Ensemble rehearsal, responded to students' playing, made changes to his newly commissioned composition, and offered and demonstrated large-group improvisational exercises. During the residency, Silvano led a master class with the MIT Concert Choir, and Werner presented a solo piano concert. All three attended rehearsals for the MIT Wind Ensemble and the Festival Jazz Ensemble and attended a poetry class, participating in the "Words and Music" series. They also attended a luncheon in honor of Bradford and Dorothea Endicott. They spent extensive time in the MIT Lewis Music Library. Lovano and Werner were



Drawing by Visual Arts Program alumna Pia Lindman.

guests on WGBH's *Eric in the Evening* radio show; their appearance focused on MIT. The residency culminated in a collaborative, multi-performance-group (MIT Wind Ensemble, Festival Jazz Ensemble, MIT Concert Choir, and various ensembles) concert honoring the 80th birthday of MIT alumnus and longtime Council for the Arts member Bradford Endicott; the concert, held in Kresge Auditorium, was attended by 900 people. In addition to the world premiere of Werner's piece, there were seven premieres by MIT composers.

The Office of the Arts hosted Finnish media artist Marita Liulia for a week in the spring. She conducted studio visits with most of the VAP graduate students and several MAS and

architecture graduate students. Many positive encounters occurred through meals with MIT's media artists, and several members of the MIT community plan to continue collaborating with Liulia.

During South African visual artist Berni Searle's four-day visit to MIT, she met with many visual artists from VAP, the Department of Architecture, and MAS. Also, she met with the African Students Association, attended the Lavender Graduation, and attended the Human 2.0 conference with former Abramowitz artist-in-residence Elizabeth Streb.

Staffing News

The position of program coordinator is filled by a recent graduate of MIT on a one-year contract. Christina Chestnut (SB 2006, mechanical engineering and music) joined Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs in July 2006, and Madeleine Sheldon-Dante (SB 2007, physics) was hired to begin July 1, 2007. SAA coordinator Clay Ward hired Matthew Mazzotta as the part-time head of drawing, painting, and open studio. Ward,

Mazzotta, ceramics studio head Darrell Finnegan, and photography studio head They Mislick form the complete permanent staff team at SAA.



South African artist Berni Searle explains her work to MIT students. Photo by Christina Chestnut.

Student staff members Elizabeth Krasner '08 (HTC), Nina Kim '09 (brain and cognitive sciences), Ashley Micks '09 (aeronautics and astronautics), Allison Berke '08 (mathematics), Yang Yang '09 (architecture), Deborah Markam '10 (chemistry), and Sadie Scheffer '10 (mechanical engineering) 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), Shaunalynn Duffy '09 (writing and humanistic studies), Marcus Gonzales-DeCardenas '09 (HTC), Ashley Cantieny '08 (mechanical engineering), and Jamie Mehringer '08 (brain and cognitive sciences) made up the equally essential SAA team.

Michèle Oshima
Director

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