

Arts Initiatives

Leila Kinney, executive director of [Arts Initiatives](#), works with associate provost Philip Khoury on strategic planning, communications, development, and cross-school coordination for the arts. She oversees the staff of the Office of the Arts at MIT, Arts Communications, and the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST); Student Programs and the Student Art Association (SAA); and programs for the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT). She chairs the Arts Communications and Visiting Artists committees and is a member of the Creative Arts Council. She is an ex officio member of the CAMIT executive committee and the advisory boards of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT), the List Visual Arts Center, and the MIT Museum. Also, she serves as the executive director of CAST.

Current Goals

- CAST: launch two major public initiatives—a biennial international symposium and a new sound series—and raise funds to sustain the center
- Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative: develop the annual Hacking Arts Festival and the \$10K Creative Arts Competition into a more comprehensive program that spans each academic year
- Alumni Arts Exchange (AAx): expand networking events in collaboration with Alumni Association regional clubs, coupled with arts events featuring MIT faculty in various regions around the country, and build an online network of alumni interested in the arts

Accomplishments

Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT

The [Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT](#), presented by the Council for the Arts at MIT every two years, has grown in prestige and impact since 2010, when we added a gala to the award ceremony, placed greater emphasis on the residency, and created a new graphic identity and public relations effort to increase the impact of the award.

The 2014 recipient, artist Olafur Eliasson, was particularly well suited to engage with MIT's cross-disciplinary culture. We worked closely with him to develop a residency project around the Little Sun, a hand-held solar-powered lamp that the artist describes as "a work of art that works in life." The project spanned the academic year, from the participation of his studio in a special challenge at the Hacking Arts Festival in September and Energy Night at the MIT Museum in October to a series of events that coincided with the artist's visit to the campus to receive the award in March. More than 900 members of the MIT community and the public participated in the March residency, which included three public events: "Holding Hands with the Sun," a public lecture by the artist; "Turning Ideas into Action," a discussion sponsored by the Tata Center for Technology and Design; and "The Art and Science of Solar Lights," a series of panel discussions with MIT faculty and graduate students.

Three other programs focused primarily on students. The artist conducted an experimental lab focused on sensory awareness in the 4.110J/MAS.330J Design Across Scales class, a design review session with the Hacking Arts teams that had participated in the Little Sun challenge and worked on the resulting projects throughout the academic year, and a discussion about studio and professional artistic practice with graduate students in the Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) and the History, Theory, and Criticism of Art and Architecture program. Eliasson also participated in seminar discussions focused upon the questions “What is participatory documentary?” and “What is civic art?” with the Open Documentary Lab and Civic Media research groups, respectively. In addition, he had intensive conversations with researchers in the D-Lab (Development through Dialogue, Design, and Dissemination) about research on effective solar light technology, with researchers in the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) about effective economic distribution models for solar lights in sub-Saharan Africa, and with Nicholas Negroponte in the Media Lab about One Laptop per Child.

There were two VIP gatherings: a lunch hosted by the provost and attended by 30 MIT faculty, CAMIT members, and gala sponsors and a celebratory dinner and award ceremony hosted by the president and attended by 206 guests, including Margaret McDermott and her daughter Mary Cook; the leadership of MIT; 32 gala sponsors; and 15 honorary hosts (diplomats and leaders of major arts institutions). The gala raised \$187,000 for the arts, a 50% increase from the 2012 total and a 100% increase from 2010, the first time a gala was held in association with the award.

The McDermott Award’s trajectory of increasing impact fulfills Margaret McDermott’s desire that it become a catalyst for bringing greater visibility not only to the award itself but also to the arts at MIT. In recent years, the McDermott Award has demonstrated MIT’s convening power in the arts, with a dedicated cohort of CAMIT members who lead and support the gala and a distinguished roster of artists whose subsequent engagement with MIT goes beyond receiving the honor and attendance at the celebratory events.

We are very pleased to report that Olafur Eliasson has been selected as the artist to create the Percent-for-Art work for the MIT.nano building, now under construction, a first for a McDermott Award nominee.

Alumni Arts Exchange

With support from the Council for the Arts and in collaboration with the Alumni Association, the [Alumni Arts Exchange](#) (AAx) was launched in September 2013 to create a network of alumni who were active in the arts while at MIT and who have remain interested in and supportive of the arts beyond their years on campus. The creation of this affinity group fills a gap between the forums for undergraduate and graduate students actively engaged in the arts (Arts Scholars, Graduate Arts Forum) and the Council for the Arts. We initially targeted 12,000 alumni who had been engaged with the arts while on campus. In this pilot year of operation, AAx held four well-attended networking events, one in conjunction with the Graduate Arts Forum arts showcase that attracted more than 800 attendees. The initial response has accelerated plans for expansion of the initiative and the development of a five-year plan that will extend nation-wide.

Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative

The successful creation in 2013 of the \$10K Creative Arts Competition within the MIT \$100K Competition and CAST's support of the first annual Hacking Arts Festival have led to the larger Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative, generously supported by an alumnus of the Sloan School of Management. The Hacking Arts Festival and the Creative Arts Competition, which will be elevated to a full "track" in the \$100K Competition in the coming year, will bookend the academic year. In addition, we are planning a number of interim events, including participation in the "Pitch" and "Accelerate" phases of the \$100K competition, a seminar on arts entrepreneurship, and development of a creative studio for winners of Hacking Arts to pursue their projects.

MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology

The [MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology](#) facilitates and creates opportunities for exchange and collaboration among artists, engineers, and scientists. A joint initiative of the Office of the Provost, the School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), CAST is committed to fostering a culture where the arts, science, and technology thrive as interrelated, mutually informing modes of exploration, knowledge, and discovery.

Current Goals

- Soliciting and supporting cross-disciplinary curricular initiatives that integrate the arts into the core curriculum and create new artistic work or materials, media, and technologies for artistic expression
- Producing a visiting artists program that emphasizes the creative process; extensive interaction with MIT faculty, students, and researchers; and cross-fertilization among disciplines
- Assisting in the presentation and 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 public through exhibitions, performing arts, and a biennial symposium

Accomplishments

In its second year, CAST brought 20 artists and 19 academics and researchers to MIT's campus to participate in a wide range of activities including curricular initiatives, symposia, exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, workshops, and lectures. Approximately 150 students participated in six course offerings from a diversity of majors, including materials science, mathematics, anthropology, building computation, and art and architecture. Many more attended the 12 public programs held during the academic year, with CAST hosting nearly 1,500 audience members in venues across the campus. In total, artists made 80 visits to campus and participated in 40 research meetings with MIT faculty and postdocs as well as departments, labs, and centers (DLCs).

Residencies

Cinematic Migrations Featuring John Akomfrah and Lina Gopaul

Cinematic Migrations was a two-year collaborative research project centered on the work of filmmaker John Akomfrah and producer Lina Gopaul, founding members of the seminal UK-based Black Audio Film Collective. Coinciding with the course 4.356 Cinematic Migrations, taught by professor Renée Green, the residency culminated in a symposium featuring filmmakers, artists, and thinkers who engage with cinema in a variety of formats, genres, and contexts. Akomfrah and Gopaul also worked with MIT students to create a collaborative film, *The Memory Album*. The film, using found footage from the students' own lives, premiered during the symposium.

Katerina Cizek

Visiting artist Katerina Cizek collaborated with the MIT Open Documentary Lab to develop the newest phase of her documentary project *HIGHRISE: Digital Citizenship*, which investigates how new communication and media technologies are reshaping the personal lives, political practices, and citizenship claims of residents in skyscrapers around the world. The project demonstrates how the documentary process can not only record social innovation but also drive and participate in it. The residency included several master classes taught by Cizek and will culminate in a symposium in 2015.

Jupiter Quartet

During its two-year residency, the Jupiter Quartet chamber music ensemble presented the rare opportunity for on-campus performances of Beethoven's complete String Quartet Cycle in six concerts. Campus visits also included intensive coaching with individual students and ensembles as well as formal and informal discussions with MIT Arts Scholars and music students.

Either/Or

Throughout the spring semester, renowned experimental ensemble *Either/Or* worked on and performed the compositions of students enrolled in 21M.351 Music Composition. *Either/Or* also premiered a composition by associate professor of music Keeril Makan and performed key works of groundbreaking composer Alvin Lucier. In addition, *Either/Or* collaborated with visiting artists Robin Rimbaud (Scanner) and Stephen Vitiello as part of 4.373 Sound Installations and Sonic Interventions, culminating in a collaborative and immersive performance called *Sonic Bodies*.

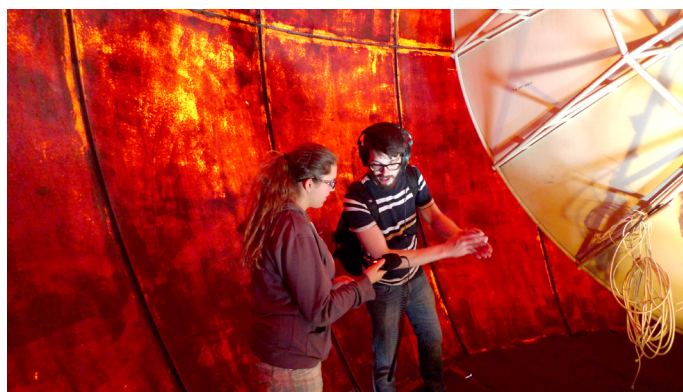
Robin Rimbaud (Scanner) and Stephen Vitiello

Visiting artists Scanner (Robin Rimbaud) and Stephen Vitiello worked with students in 4.373 Sound Installations and Sonic Interventions, a class led by Gediminas Urbonas, associate professor in the Program in Art, Culture and Technology. The two artists served as creative catalysts, advising student projects and discussing their own pioneering work in sound art. Scanner and Vitiello also worked in conjunction with visiting artists *Either/Or*, composer and associate professor of music Keeril Makan, and MIT research affiliate and Berklee professor Neil Leonard. With these acclaimed artists, students created unique site-specific sound installations around the MIT campus. Projects can be accessed on the [Resonating MIT](#) website.

Seminars and Courses

CC.S11 Objective Narratives

The Concourse class CC.S11 Objective Narratives: Portraits of Science Through Material Culture and Photography taught students how to leverage the power of photography to reflect upon the material culture of science. The Concourse program offers students an opportunity to study science while exploring the fundamental questions that reside at the intersections of science, social science, and humanistic inquiry. Founded in 1970, Concourse serves about 90 students per year and is designed to equip science and engineering students with a broader perspective. CAST's support enabled the program to integrate the arts into this important mission. Visiting lecturers included photographers Felice Frankel, Essdras Suarez, and Jan Kostecki. MIT Museum curator Deborah Douglas gave a tour of the museum's impressive photography collection. The course culminated in an exhibit, *Process*, featuring the students' work.



MIT students create sound installation in the radome of the Green Building. Photo by Gediminas Urbonas

4.110/MAS.330/MAS.650 Design Across Scales

The course [4.110/MAS.330/MAS.650 Design Across Scales, Disciplines and Problem Contexts](#) explored the relationship between science and engineering through the lens of design. Design thinking has become increasingly integral to the contemporary practice



MIT student Melissa Schumacher photographs time at different scales. Photo by Melissa Schumacher.

of science and engineering as the field expands to encompass the design of buildings, tools, data, experiences, networks, materials, and even DNA. With the idea that design is not a discipline but a critical methodology, the course brought together interdisciplinary teams of students—from mechanical engineering to materials science to architecture—to visualize data and design objects, experiences, and systems for the greater good. The course was supplemented with a series of guest lecturers from a wide variety of fields.

STS.035 Exhibiting Science

Students in STS.035 Exhibiting Science created original kinetic sculptures for display in the MIT Museum as part of the exhibit *Inventions: 2014 Student Showcase*. Working in the Museum Studio, students were mentored by visiting artists Arthur Ganson, Anne Lilly, and John Powers, whose work is currently on display in the museum's *5000 Moving Parts* exhibit, and by the museum's technical team. John Powers participated in a public program, "Emotion: Movement and Meaning," that explored the art and science of movement. Other participants included Benjamin Bartelle, dancer and postdoctoral associate in the Department of Biological Engineering, and Emilio Bizzi, professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

4.672 Automatism in Art and Architecture

Taught by CAST postdoctoral fellow David Mather, this popular interdisciplinary seminar focused on the concept of automatism. Students learned about the philosophical discourses of materialism and metaphysics, the legal definition of individuals, various psychological and physical disorders, and spontaneous social and political disruptions.

Special Event: Death and the Powers Simulcast

Through a [global interactive simulcast](#), audiences around the world experienced composer and professor Tod Machover's acclaimed robot opera *Death and the Powers*. When the simulcast premiered at the Dallas Opera House, remote audiences around the world were able not only to view the performance through the live broadcast but also actively engage with it. To participate, audience members at various sites, including the MIT Media Lab simulcast sponsored by CAST, downloaded the specially created *Powers Live* app. The app granted viewers unique access into the world of protagonist Simon Powers, the successful businessman who hopes to prolong his existence by downloading his consciousness to his physical surroundings.

Symposium: Public Space? Lost & Found

Bringing together artists, architects, planners, and theorists from MIT and beyond, the two-day "[Public Space? Lost & Found](#)" symposium explored how artists and architects can reclaim public space to create a more democratic society. The event, attended by more than 300 people, was held in honor of the retirement of Antoni Muntadas, an artist and ACT professor of the practice. The symposium was accompanied by an exhibit installed in the lobby of the MIT Media Lab featuring documentation of public artworks created by Muntadas' students.

Special Event: Hacking Arts Festival

Part of a new initiative on arts and entrepreneurship, Hacking Arts was the first annual festival and hackathon co-presented with students in MIT's Sloan School of Management. At the event, 253 attendees heard from entrepreneurial leaders in a range of creative fields, viewed demos from new startups, experienced tech-enabled live performances, and developed their own tech-based business ventures in the space of 48 hours.



“Public Space? Lost and Found” exhibition displays work from students of artist Antoni Muntadas, professor of the practice in the Art, Culture and Technology program. Photo by Elisa Young

Finances and Funding

CAST is supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the center recently raised \$450,000 in endowments and \$60,000 in expendable funds.

To date, CAST has disbursed approximately \$228,000 in grants to faculty at MIT, including funds to bring expert visiting artists to participate in eight classes.

Arts Communications

Through close collaboration with the News Office, the directors of communications in SAP and SHASS, and communications officers on the Arts Communications Committee, Leah Talatinian, the arts communications manager, coordinates and facilitates internal and external publicity, raising awareness of the arts at MIT. The increased arts communications efforts have raised the profile of the arts—within the MIT community, in the Boston area, nationally, and internationally—through sustained attention to media relations, advertising, grassroots outreach, print marketing, and online presence. Building loyalty from existing audiences and reaching new audiences are given equal priority.

Media Coverage

Two announcements of international significance generated the most widespread media coverage of the arts at MIT. In October 2013 Olafur Eliasson was selected as the recipient

of the 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT, and in May 2014 professor emerita Joan Jonas was named the representative for the US pavilion at the 2015 Venice Biennale (the List Visual Arts Center will be the presenter and curator of the exhibition).

The *Boston Globe* covered the McDermott Award announcement in addition to several arts exhibitions at the MIT Museum, including the kinetic art exhibit *5000 Moving Parts* and the Stanley Greenberg and daguerreotype photography exhibitions in the Kurtz Gallery. Also, the *Globe* featured the Joan Jonas Venice Biennale announcement in three articles during a two-month span. The *New York Times* featured the Jonas news as well, as did all major contemporary art publications.

A new relationship formed with journalists from Forbes.com and *International Business Times* resulted in articles about the Stanley Greenberg exhibition at the MIT Museum and an interview with Olafur Eliasson related to the McDermott Award announcement. In addition to the *International Business Times* and *Boston Globe*, all major contemporary art publications covered the news of Eliasson's McDermott Award, including *Artforum*, *Artinfo*, *Art in America*, and *Art New England*. There were 13 million online and print impressions related to the McDermott Award news.

The continuing communications effort created overarching messaging for the arts with outreach to media. The ongoing cultivation of the relationship with *Art New England* magazine resulted in prominent placements and an impressive 10 articles in its January/February art and science issue, ranging from reviews of the Stanley Greenberg MIT Museum exhibition review to quotes from faculty members in feature articles.

NEA Today magazine produced a feature article about the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT with quotes by Leila Kinney and Alan Brody, among others.

The Tech covered the arts more thoroughly this year with arts scholar Grace Young serving as arts editor. A highlight was a feature section, "Arts in Review," that appeared in the February 2014 issue of *The Tech*, as well as a feature article announcing Joan Jonas' Venice Biennale exhibition by incoming arts editor and arts scholar Denis Bozic.

Advertising

Advertising was again an important part of communications outreach. The Office of the Arts at MIT reached audiences through WBUR, Boston's National Public Radio affiliate; *Art New England* magazine; *Artforum* magazine; and *The Tech*. Print materials such as postcards and posters were produced and digital advertisements were presented in the Infinite Display screens on campus.

Arts Portal

Traffic to the arts portal showed a steady increase, peaking during the McDermott Award presentation, when 4,700 unique visitors came to the website in the month of March 2014. Nearly 44,000 unique users (apart from page views) visited the arts portal between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. The top countries represented were the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Germany, Canada, and France.

In order to highlight the extraordinary roster of visiting artists at MIT during the last five decades, the arts portal was reorganized to give more prominence to these artists, including more background information and more documentation about the artists' residencies at MIT.

CAST's section of the arts portal continued to grow throughout the year with a blog and information on visiting artists, leadership, events, courses, and grant opportunities for faculty.

Campus News

Campus News articles and "Of Note" highlights published throughout the year emphasized the Visiting Artists Program; CAST's programs, courses, and concerts; and other important arts news. Over the past year, we emphasized writing stories for the MIT News site to take advantage of the audience it attracts as the most widely read university news page in the United States. Specifically, 77 blog posts and Campus News articles were published in AY2014 on the arts portal and shared on social media, with nearly 16,000 blog page views from June 1, 2013, through June 1, 2014. The most popular blog post, "Painting with Bacteria" (about Vik Muniz and Tal Donino), reached approximately 950 readers, and the most popular Campus News post (about musician Mark Stewart) reached 1,120 readers.

Alumni Outreach

The Office of the Arts continued to publish its well-received biannual alumni newsletter, which is sent to 11,480 alumni worldwide. The newsletter features news about faculty, alumni, and events on campus that have an alumni connection. A Campus News [article](#) and new web page were created for the launch of the Alumni Arts Exchange, and emails were sent to invite alumni to the AAx launch events.

Video

During the academic year, the Office of the Arts produced three videos about Olafur Eliasson and his work and residency associated with the McDermott Award. The videos are posted on the [Arts at MIT](#) channel on YouTube, [TechTV](#), and the McDermott Award section of the arts portal and are also distributed through social media. The Arts at MIT YouTube channel surpassed 8,000 subscribers.

Branding

The Office of the Arts hired the leading design firm Pentagram to create a new look and feel for the arts at MIT, which resulted in a new logo and design guidelines. The new elegant and inclusive design presents the arts at MIT as a unifying umbrella for the arts entities dispersed in various DLCs. The look, called "Bridge," consists of a stylized slash as a metaphor for the many entities and collaborators that the arts at MIT bring together; the design is flexible and easily adaptable to new partnerships. The new identity was soft launched in May 2014, starting with email newsletters and postcards, and will be implemented on an ongoing basis moving forward. Pentagram is working on the redesign of the arts portal with the goal of completion by fall 2014.

Social Media

A focused effort to take advantage of social media produced very positive results. Arts at MIT Twitter followers increased by 67% (from 1,625 to 4,986), and Arts at MIT Facebook likes increased by 64% (from 1,978 to 3,551). The strategy of more frequent posts, paid boosted posts, themed concentrated posts, and more creative content also resulted in greater attention and more shares from the MIT Twitter feed and Facebook page. The most successful posts this year were associated with McDermott Award outreach in partnership with Studio Olafur Eliasson; Resonating MIT, the culmination of a residency by ACT visiting artists Scanner (Robin Rimbaud) and Stephen Vitiello; and student art award theme week. Photographs of arts at MIT events have had more than 90,000 views on our Flickr page, and we will now use Instagram to share those images further. We plan to expand our use of Soundcloud as well.

Council for the Arts at MIT

The [Council for the Arts at MIT](#) (CAMIT) was established in 1972 by MIT president Jerome Wiesner to serve as a catalyst for a broad-based program in the arts at MIT. Susan Cohen has served as CAMIT director since 1996. She works with the approximately 100 CAMIT members and her colleagues across the Institute to sustain the activities and programs described below.

Current Goals

The primary goals, objectives, and priorities of Susan Cohen, CAMIT's director, are the continued stewardship of current members, maintenance of CAMIT programs that benefit the student and faculty communities, responsible oversight of CAMIT finances, and outreach to seek and engage future members. Another goal is to regularize CAMIT's governance procedures and the on-boarding process for new members.

Through training and personal interaction with the Alumni Association in the service of the new Alumni Arts Exchange, Cohen and manager of Student Programs Sam Magee are developing an affinity group and building a broad network of supporters of the arts at MIT.

CAMIT achieved a milestone established at a retreat held in September 2011, surpassing \$500,000 in annual contributions. More straightforward communications about giving expectations for established members and steady growth in recruiting new members are responsible for the increase.

Accomplishments

The Council for the Arts at MIT and the associate provost with responsibility for the arts jointly provided funds to support the launch of the Alumni Arts Exchange, with Susan Cohen and Sam Magee serving as co-coordinators.

Annual Meeting Committee (Wendy Kistler, Chair)

The 41st annual meeting of the Council for the Arts took place on October 25 and 26, 2013, and was attended by 44 CAMIT members. In the past few years the event has

started with the business meeting, which has resulted in increased attendance. For many members of CAMIT, this is the only time they are on campus and able to interact with each other. Therefore, we try to pack the schedule with information and entertainment that are engaging but not overwhelming. The annual meeting planners strived to capture and represent the diversity of arts offerings at MIT by including such lively touches as the MIT Bhangra Club waking us up on Thursday morning; dinner in the MIT Museum with tables decorated by the curved origami sculptures of professor Erik Demaine and his father, Glass Lab artist-in-residence Martin Demaine; a gamelan lesson in the Endicott World Music Center; and an engaging talk by John Ochsendorf about his research on Guastavino tiles.

Grants Committee (Colleen Messing, Chair)

The CAMIT grants committee awarded 46 grants totaling \$115,220 and 37 director's grants totaling \$14,490. A special request to increase the grants budget by \$10,000 was approved by the executive committee. A few of the exceptional projects this year were as follows.

- Two grants supported the "Public Space: Lost & Found" symposium and exhibition, organized by ACT to mark the retirement of professor Antoni Muntadas. A great success, the event will be detailed in a publication that CAMIT also helped to fund.
- *We'll Get It Right*—an original musical comedy written by three MIT faculty members, Martin Marks, Charles Shadle, and Michael Ouellette—sets the MIT-Harvard rivalry to music.
- The 10-week Open Style Lab program brings together design and engineering students to create clothing solutions for people with disabilities or their caretakers.

Membership and Nominating Committee (Marilyn Breslow, Chair)

CAMIT's membership stands at 92, with eight ex officio members. The following individuals have joined the council since the last report: Deborah Stein Sharpe, Katherine Freiburger, and ex officio members Leila Kinney, chancellor Cynthia Barnhart, and provost Martin Schmidt. There are currently 12 associate members, with Leah Brunetto the most recent addition.

Members Rajapal Arulpragasam and Herbert and Kitty Glantz completed their service in FY2013. Stanley M. Proctor passed away in May 2014, and K. Anne Street, David I. Solo, and Richard Nordlof resigned.

Brad Endicott, Toni Wyman, and Joan Rudy became life members, and Michael and Sonja Koerner of Toronto became CAMIT's first honorary members.

Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts Selection Committee (Rick Stone '76, Chair)

The McDermott Award was presented to environmental artist Olafur Eliasson on March 13, 2014.

Awards Committee (Ann Allen, Chair)

The Louis Sudler Prize is awarded each year to a graduating senior who has shown excellence or the highest level of proficiency in a given arts discipline. This year's Sudler Prize winner is Albert Wu '14, who won for his musical ability on both piano and violin.

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards were presented to Elena Jessop G for art and technology, Grace Young '14 for arts journalism, Floor van de Velde G for visual arts, and Adam Strandberg '14 for theater.

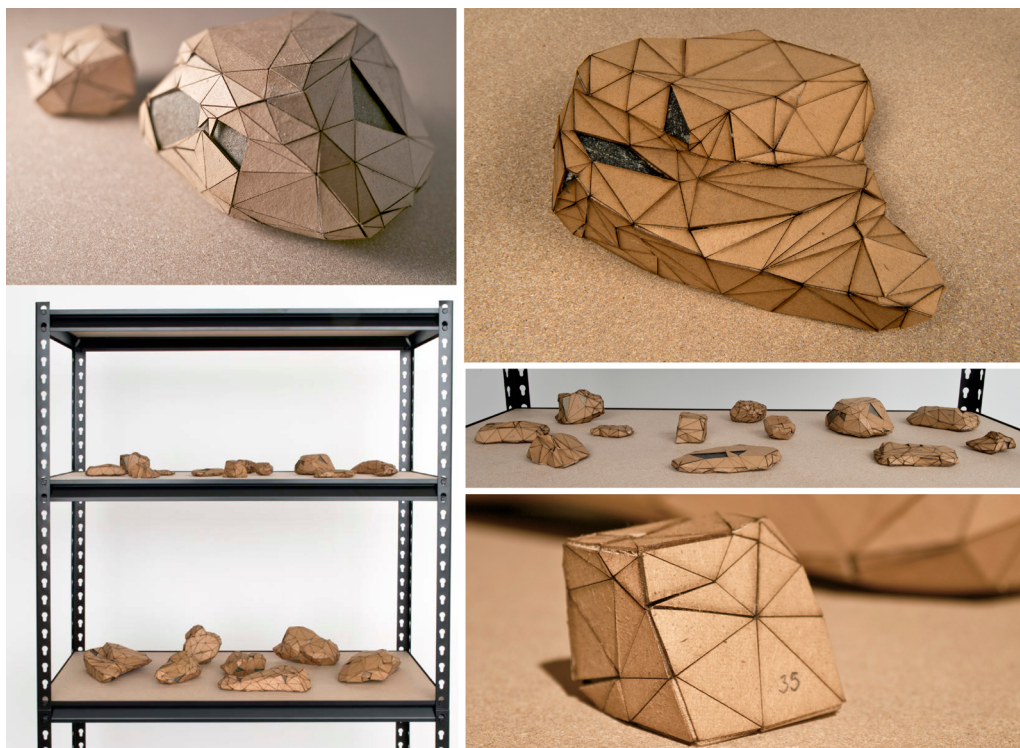
The 18th annual exhibition of the winners of the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts opened at the Wiesner Student Art Gallery in the Stratton Student Center in May 2014 and was well attended. The work of this year's winners had a common thread: the blend of traditional craft with contemporary technology. The Schnitzer Prize is very generous, with first place at \$5,000, second at \$3,000, third at \$2,000, and honorable mentions at \$1,000.



Martin Schmidt presents the 2014 Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Awards to (l-r) Floor van de Velde, Elena Jessop, Adam Strandberg, and Grace Young. Photo by Justin Knight

This year's first-prize winner was Anne Macmillan, a graduate student in the Program in Art, Culture and Technology who explores the randomness of nature in a very methodical way, with meticulous cataloguing, tracking, and fanciful interpretations. Sophia Brueckner, a graduate student at the Media Lab, was awarded second prize for her charming musings on the integration of the computer into her physical and emotional life. The third place winner was Floor van de Velde from ACT, an installation artist who uses light, color, and pattern to create the impression of optical illusions.

Alison Malouf, a senior in the School of Architecture and Planning, received an honorable mention for her paintings. It is the Schnitzer jury's intention going forward to award at least one honorable mention annually to an undergraduate.



Anne Macmillan's Boxes for Rocks. Image courtesy of the artist

Ticket/Membership Programs

Since 1980, the council has underwritten MIT's University Membership Program at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (MFA). This program provides free admission and discount benefits to all MIT undergraduate and graduate students, as well as 15 day passes for use by MIT faculty and staff. Fourteen of the day passes are now distributed at the Hayden Library circulation desk; one pass is sent to Lincoln Laboratory for its staff. MIT is ranked in the top 10 in number of admissions to MFA, recording 1,924 MIT student visits during fiscal year 2014, 608 staff entries, and 148 people who attended as part of a group visit.

CAMIT's sponsorship of an institutional membership with the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum completed its third year; student attendance for 2013–2014 was 809, roughly the same as last year.

CAMIT renewed the institutional membership with the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), and all MIT students, staff, and faculty are granted free admission with their MIT IDs. Also, discounts are offered at the gift shop and café. As of June 2014, 910 MIT ID holders had gained free admission to the ICA.

The membership program with the Photographic Resource Center (PRC) at Boston University continued. MIT undergraduates and graduate students have free unlimited access to the PRC galleries and library. They can also enter their work into the juried members' exhibition.

CAMIT underwrites MIT's membership at the Harvard Art Museums, allowing all MIT graduate and undergraduate students free admission; the reopening of the renovated facility (previously known as the Fogg Museum) is eagerly awaited.

CAMIT continued to charge MIT students \$5 per Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) College Card and to sell the cards at the Copy Tech Center in the basement of Building 11. A total of 1,034 cards were sold, producing \$4,653 in income. Because the College Card provides free access to virtually every BSO concert, the number of tickets procured by MIT students is estimated to have been up to 10,000.

CAMIT provides free tickets for MIT students to three Boston Chamber Music Society concerts (a total of 154 tickets were distributed). Similar arrangements provide tickets to four of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project's concerts at Jordan Hall (93 tickets distributed) and tickets to each of the Radius Ensemble's concerts at the Longy School of Music at Bard College in Harvard Square (66 tickets distributed).

The student performing arts ticket series continued, with tickets provided to augment or support the curriculum of primarily the Music and Theater Arts Section (some tickets are provided at the request of faculty from other departments, but not as frequently). A total of \$12,708 was spent on 480 tickets. Performances ranged from Oklahoma! to an event featuring Tuvan throat singers Huun Huun Tu.

Administrative Initiatives

Development of the CAMIT members-only website is continuing, and the site is becoming a reliable method of distribution of meeting material. The Slideroom service is equally valuable for the grants and awards committees and will soon be a rich archival resource for the council and others at MIT cataloguing images and reports from the many CAMIT-awarded grants.

Also, the CAMIT director continues to become familiar with the various databases used by the Alumni Association and the Office of Resource Development, with the goal being to integrate data from CAMIT into these systems.

Finances and Funding

The council raised \$485,272 from 71 members and \$21,408 from 24 nonmembers, for a grand total of \$506,680. Expenses for fiscal year 2014 totaled \$505,650. This figure includes \$30,000 in nonrecurring expenses (\$20,000 for the MIT Museum summer exhibition program and \$10,000 for the Alumni Arts Exchange).

Student Programs

Student Programs in the Office of the Arts at MIT includes the Freshman Arts Seminar Advising Program (FASAP), Arts Scholars (a program endowed by the Council for the Arts at MIT), the Graduate Arts Forum (a series of events and lectures focused on the arts at the graduate level), the new \$10K Creative Arts Competition within the Sloan \$100K Competition, the new Alumni Arts Exchange, (AAx) and the Student Art Association (SAA), which offers non-credit arts instruction to students, staff, and MIT

affiliates. Sam Magee, the manager of Student Programs, oversees these programs as well as exhibitions in the Wiesner Student Gallery and supports the director of the Council for the Arts in administering arts awards and grants.

Current Goals

- Develop the continuum of participants, from freshmen through graduate students and on to alumni, in our arts-focused programming and community building
- Act as a liaison between the Sloan School of Management and the Office of the Arts at MIT to continue the development of the Hacking Arts Festival and the \$10K Creative Arts Competition, which is part of the larger Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Continue collaboration with the Graduate Student Council, AAx, and the Graduate Arts Forum to further increase participation and the visibility of the arts among the undergraduate and graduate student populations
- Incorporate visiting artists and CAST programs into all student programs

Accomplishments

Alumni Arts Exchange

This new program, created in partnership with the Alumni Office, engages alumni interested in the arts in arts-focused networking events in order to cultivate conversation and community locally and eventually nationwide. Attendance and feedback for the first, pilot year of the program surpassed our goals, as measured against attendance at similar affinity groups sponsored by the Alumni Association (for example, MIT10 events). Our five-year plan calls for regional expansion in the coming year, and we will plan events in various cities in conjunction with performances or exhibitions by MIT creative arts faculty. We will continue to build this crucial community, which will nurture goodwill and support for the arts at MIT.



Alumni Arts Exchange and Grad Arts Forum at the Pi Day Launch party on March 14, 2014. Photo by Joseph Lee

\$10K Creative Arts Competition

The [\\$10K Creative Arts Competition](#), now in its second year, rewards the best startup with the arts or design as a core component of its business plan. The competition is held in conjunction with the annual \$100K Competition. Twenty teams submitted proposals, and Office of the Arts staff narrowed the pool to six very strong finalists. The winner, as selected by a jury composed of MIT alumni, entrepreneurs, and artists, was [SoundSpark](#), a micro-investment vehicle for music fans to find emerging artists and invest in their promotion and success. We reformatted the judging process to include live pitches and real-time feedback. The success of this year's \$10K opened a path for the competition to become a new track in the \$100K Competition and a feeder pool for the Institute-wide Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities Student Conference

Leila Kinney and Sam Magee selected three Arts Scholars to attend the first “Emerging Creatives” student-focused conference at Stanford University, sponsored by the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru). MIT was invited to give the closing address, which included three student presentations: Grace Young '14 demonstrated a device to analyze a dancer's pirouette in order to improve technique and avoid injury, Bruno Tambasco '15 summarized the Hacking Arts Festival, and PhD candidate Sheng-Ying Pao described several gesture-sensing innovations that transform analog drawings into animated facsimiles, one of which was presented at SIGGRAPH 2013 and won the 2013 Association for Computing Machinery student research competition.



*Christopher Nolte and Ana Villanueva of SoundSpark are presented the \$10K prize by Leila Kinney, Executive Director of Arts Initiatives at MIT on May 14, 2014.
Photo by L. Barry Hetherington*

Arts Scholars

The Arts Scholars continued to evolve into a community of eager MIT ambassadors for the arts. The group's attendance at the 10-plus events each academic year is wonderful, and Arts Scholars' accomplishments have grown as the community continues to bond around the arts. It is likely that their engagement will continue after graduation, as Arts Scholars alumni continue to spread the word about the vibrant arts scene on campus. The number of applicants has increased and the selection process has become more focused; in turn, the Arts Scholars Program has become a highly selective and dynamic organization.

Student Art Association

The MIT Student Art Association continues to exceed expectations with respect to both attendance and revenue. During this academic year it served more than 600 MIT community members, teaching skills in the traditional arts in hands-on, extra-academic studio sessions. After a restructuring that took place over the last two years, we have refined our teaching and management of the organization and have enjoyed increased enrollment and revenues during the past year, with a new staff of five talented and dedicated teachers.

We have hired a new student curator and assistant for the Wiesner Student Art Gallery and the Student Art Association, which will help streamline the transition between terms and shows. Carmen Castanos is a recent graduate and will be continuing at MIT as a graduate student in mechanical engineering as well as an Arts Scholar.

Arts Scholars

The [Arts Scholars](#), founded in 1998, is a select group of approximately 30 undergraduate and graduate students who share exceptional interests or aptitudes in the arts. Program applications are reviewed once a semester, and candidates are interviewed and selected by a panel of MIT faculty, staff, and Council for the Arts members.

The Arts Scholars calendar includes 10–12 excursions each academic year to area arts events. An expert in the relevant discipline accompanies students on each excursion to provide insight and commentary. On these visits the Art Scholars engage in discussion, learning from the expertise of the guest with the goal of better understanding the event and how it might affect students' lives and studies at MIT.

In addition to the excursions, the Arts Scholars are asked to give back to the community by mentoring other MIT students interested in the arts, acting as ambassadors for the arts at MIT, and volunteering for MIT arts events.

This year's Arts Scholars calendar included a trip to New York City to visit the Museum of Modern Art and see *Rusalka* at the Metropolitan Opera with professor Emily Pollok. In addition, at a Boston Ballet performance of *La Bayadere*, ballet master Tony Randazzo offered an in-depth discussion about the practice of ballet. The Arts Scholars also



Arts Scholars at La Bayadere, Boston Ballet 2014. Photo by Sam Magee

participated in a master class with renowned guitarist Mike Stern, visited the Peabody Essex Museum and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and attended a BSO Joshua Bell performance.

Graduate Arts Forum

The MIT [Graduate Arts Forum](#) is designed to build an interdisciplinary community of graduate students who admire or create art as part of their graduate studies or through independent practice. During the Graduate Arts Forum's 11th year, it once again enjoyed significant growth and continued its collaboration with the Graduate Student Council. The three annual arts parties drew more than 1,200 graduate students.

The forums provide graduate students the opportunity to present their work to the larger MIT graduate student body as well as an opportunity to see what their peers and local artists are creating. The forums generate discussions around creative thinking and practice that help stimulate research and ensure communication among disciplines.

This year's forums included a very successful Arts Showcase with over 500 graduate students in attendance and approximately 50 MIT artists showcasing their work. The fourth annual private gallery opening took place at the Copley Society of Art, America's oldest nonprofit artist collective. Other forums included painting workshops and dorm-specific community-building activities. An event held in collaboration with AAX allowed current graduate students and more than 70 MIT alumni to mingle and share their interests in the arts.



Graduate students at the Copley Society for Art. Photo by Sam Magee

Student Art Association

The [Student Art Association](#) is a suite of three studios, founded in 1969, that provides space for hands-on exploration of the visual arts, photography, and ceramics. SAA offers more than 70 student-focused nonacademic classes during the fall, spring, summer, and Independent Activities Period (IAP). The Student Art Association enrolled approximately 600 MIT community members this year, close to 60% of whom were matriculated MIT students; the balance consisted of staff, alumni, and spouses of students, staff, and alumni. SAA offers 24-hour access to its members enrolled in ceramics, photography, drawing, painting, and open studios. SAA has enjoyed steady growth and provides university-level arts instruction in a relaxed, creative atmosphere.

Wiesner Student Art Gallery

The [Wiesner Student Art Gallery](#), located on the second floor of the Stratton Student Center (W20), is reserved for an exhibition of student work each month. The exhibitions range in media and format from photography to installation and from solo shows to group exhibitions of student art award recipients. The monthly exhibition openings are growing in popularity, with each attracting between 20 and 50 visitors during the two-hour reception period. As the reputation of the gallery grows, demand has increased, as has the breadth and quality of the student art that is being exhibited in the MIT community.

Administrative Initiatives

The communications team in the Office of the Arts has joined forces with Mark Linga in the List Visual Arts Center and the public relations firm Resnicow Schroder Associates to handle media coverage and press relations for the Venice Biennale. Leah Talatinian, arts communications manager, is leading the effort, and Heidi Erickson and Stephen Fitzmeyer created the Joan Jonas 2015 website.

The successful merging of CAST and Visiting Artists Program calls for proposals will continue and be more broadly based given the wider mandate of CAST, which encompasses curricular development, public performance, research projects, and student entrepreneurship initiatives.

The successful reorganization of SAA created steadily rising enrollments and revenues and led to the hiring of an additional instructor to meet unfilled demand, particularly during IAP and the summer term.

Sam Magee, manager of Student Programs, has become the liaison for Hacking Arts and the \$100K Competition as part of the new Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Future Plans

- Build the reputation of the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology as a leading force in creative work, curricular experimentation, and major scholarship at the intersections of art, science, and technology
- Develop an overarching argument and strategy for raising funds for the arts across the administrative units in the Office of the Associate Provost, SAP, and SHASS
- Increase the online component of the Arts Alumni Exchange and expand its profile by collaborating on arts events around the country with Alumni Association regional clubs
- Expand the Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative by broadening the Hacking Arts Festival and developing the \$10K Creative Arts Competition into a full-fledged track in the MIT \$100K Competition
- Work with the steering committee to plan major arts events for the spring MIT 2016 celebration

Personnel

Leila Kinney serves on the MassHumanities Board, the a2ru executive committee, and the advisory board of Sandbox, an initiative at Washington College in Chester, MD, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She invited manager of Student Programs Sam Magee and three Arts Scholars to present with her at the first student conference sponsored by A2ru at Stanford University in January 2014.

Susan Cohen is a founding member of Arts Administrators in Higher Education and belongs to the Massachusetts chapter of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, ArtTable, Americans for the Arts, and Grantmakers in Arts.

Evan Ziporyn, Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music and CAST's inaugural faculty director, was on sabbatical in AY2014. Leila W. Kinney continued to direct CAST. Adèle Naudé Santos, dean of the School of Architecture and Planning and a member of the CAST executive committee, stepped down at the end of June 2014. Caroline Jones, professor of the history of art, and Stefan Helmreich, Elting E. Morison professor of anthropology, will lead the first CAST biennial symposium, "Seeing/Sounding/Sensing," in September 2014. Mellon postdoctoral fellow David Mather, who will begin a faculty appointment at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in September, will collaborate with MIT faculty and invited guests on the symposium. Anya Ventura, arts research writer for CAST, has been accepted to an MFA program at the Iowa Writer's Workshop and will resign her position on August 15, 2014.

The 2013–2014 Visiting Artists Committee members were John Durant, director of the MIT Museum; Renée Green, professor and head of the Program in Art, Culture and Technology; Paul Ha, director of the List Visual Arts Center; Stefan Helmreich, Elting E. Morison professor of anthropology; Leila W. Kinney, executive director of Arts Initiatives and CAST (chair); Jasmin Min Kwak G (architecture); Elizabeth Murphy, producer for CAST; Meg Rotzel, producer of artists in residence and public programs; Jay Scheib, professor and head of theater; Meejin Yoon, associate professor of architecture; and Evan Ziporyn, Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music.

Elizabeth Woodward was renewed for one year as a communications assistant focused on social media for the arts at MIT, a position she began in March 2013. She came to MIT as a communications intern in October 2012. Stephen Fitzmeyer was hired as web administrator for the arts at MIT effective July 2013, replacing Suzana Lisanti.

Eleonora Lecei was hired in January 2014 as a ceramics instructor for the Student Art Association.

Leila W. Kinney
Executive Director of Arts Initiatives