

List Visual Arts Center

The [List Visual Arts Center](#), MIT's contemporary art museum, collects, commissions, and presents rigorous, provocative, and artist-centric projects that engage MIT and the global art community. The List Visual Arts Center is a creative laboratory that provides artists with a space to freely experiment and push existing boundaries. In AY2016, the List Center presented a dynamic program of ten special exhibitions in its galleries, including a program of evolving site-specific work by emerging artists known as *List Projects*, as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and scholarly publications. The List Center maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, a collection of more than 50 site-specific artworks throughout the campus; and oversees the Student Loan Art Program, which lends approximately 600 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

Goals

- Continue to present the finest national and international contemporary art. Work with artists to give them the opportunity to present what is typically their first museum exhibition in the United States.
- Continue to provide new scholarship through the publication of catalogs that supplement the exhibitions.
- Serve as a research laboratory for contemporary artists to experiment and grow as they present an exhibition in the galleries.
- Preserve, conserve, and re-site works from the permanent collection.
- Engage and partner with the MIT community.
- Increase cross-disciplinary and collaborative use of the List Center's exhibitions, programs, and facilities.
- Support artists and their research.
- Fund an endowment for art conservation at a level appropriate for the collection's requirements.
- Increase the List Center's visibility through the use of a new branding and marketing campaign.
- Increase audience engagement and participation from the MIT campus as well as the Boston area and beyond by providing more interpretive and outreach programs.
- Increase media presence through aggressive use of social media.
- Grow the Advisory Committee of the List Center, garnering additional support and leadership.
- Increase staffing levels to enhance the ability to present ambitious world-class programming.
- Engage in long-range planning for the List Center's future.

- Continue to build a strong patron program through the Director's Circle membership and add a corporate membership program; continue to leverage the opportunities created by the Venice Biennale.

Accomplishments

The 56th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition

In July 2015, the List Visual Arts Center supported Professor Emerita Joan Jonas's presentation of a live performance at the Venice Biennale. This was the culmination of Jonas's work in Venice and continued to garner incredible international press and financial support.

The Biennale closed on November 22, 2015. During the seven months of the exhibition, the show was visited by 500,875 people, viewed online by 1,493,048 individual visitors, and amassed 8,574,978 page views. Overall, the exhibition was written about more than 25 times by international press. After the close of the show, it traveled to Singapore and was on view from January 22, 2016 to April 3, 2016 at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore.

Curatorial Exhibition Highlights

The List Center organized nine exhibitions in the galleries, including three *List Projects* exhibitions—a series of exhibitions of emerging artists scheduled off cycle from the other exhibitions (to ensure there is always work on view in the galleries)—and one exhibition for the Dean's Gallery in MIT's Sloan School of Management.

The List Center published two catalogs in AY2016: *Library* (MIT List Visual Arts Center and Torpedo Press, 2015), published in conjunction with *List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli*; and Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige's *The Rumors of the World: Rethinking Trust in the Age of the Interent* (Sternberg Press in association with MIT List Visual Arts Center; Villa Arson, Nice, France; and HOME, Manchester, UK, 2015), published in conjunction with *Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige: I Must First Apologize . . .*

In partnership with the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the List Center presented a mural by artist Lawrence Weiner, whose work is also in MIT's public art collection. Over 2.5 million visitors viewed the mural during the 12 months it was on view.

Exhibitions on View July 2015 through May 2016

List Projects: Lina Viste Grønli

July 28, 2015 to October 25, 2015

Curated by Alise Uptitis, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center

Dean's Gallery Exhibition: Outer Sense

August 17, 2015 to August 5, 2016

Student Loan Art Program Exhibition and Lottery

September 1–13, 2015



Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space
October 23, 2015 to January 3, 2016
Curated by Henriette Huldisch,
Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center

Installation view:
Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space



List Projects: Ann Hirsch
January 5, 2016 to February 21, 2016
Curated by Henriette Huldisch,
Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Still from Ann Hirsch, Scandalishious
(2008–2009, video, color, sound, 42.5 minutes),
(Courtesy the artist).



Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige: I Must First Apologize . . .
February 19, 2016 to April 17, 2016
Curated by Henriette Huldisch,
Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, The Rumor of the World (2014). Installation view: I Must First Apologize . . . Photo: Peter Harris.

List Projects: Narrative Color
April 19, 2016 to May 22, 2016
Curated by Alise Upitis, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.



Tala Madani: First Light
 May 20, 2016 to July 17, 2016
 Curated by Henriette Huldish, Curator,
 MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Tala Madani, Projections (2015, oil on linen, 80 x 98 1/4 x 1 3/8 inches). (Courtesy the artist; David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles; and Pilar Corrias, London). Photo: Josh White.

Villa Design Group: Tragedy Machine

May 20, 2016 to July 17, 2016

Curated by Alise Uptis, Assistant Curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Programs and Student Outreach Highlights

The List Center organized the 2015 Wasserman Forum on Contemporary Art, *Public Art and the Commons*, which examined and explored the public square and public art, and their role in the work of socially engaged artists. The program featured a keynote address by Thomas Hirschhorn as well as three panels of practitioners from the visual arts, critical theory, and political activism. The forum was developed in conjunction with the List Center's partnership with the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy to present a mural by Lawrence Weiner in downtown Boston's Dewey Square Park.

The List Center presented the Lavine Lecture "Surface Tension, Screen Space," on the work of Rosa Barba, the guest speaker was Harvard scholar Guiliana Bruno.

In conjunction with the exhibitions a number of thematically linked reading group and discussion programs were offered including numerous curatorial and artist talks. The List Center offered staff-led tours of exhibitions and the permanent art collection on campus to 38 groups. The tours were attended by over 750 guests including MIT faculty, staff, and students; visitors from other universities; and the general public.

Introduced a series of graduate student talks whereby graduate students across the Institute were invited to give public tours connecting exhibitions to their own research. These talks were presented in conjunction with the exhibitions *Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige: I Must First Apologize . . .* and *List Projects: Narrative Color*. MIT graduate students crafted focused, interdisciplinary explorations of the exhibitions for their peers and the public.

The List Center's collaborative relationship with Catalyst Conversations continued throughout the AY2016, as the List Center hosted five lectures with the organizers. The American Academy in Rome presented a public talk at the List Center as part of their series *Conversations/Conversazion*.

A number of the List Centers's events and programs were featured during ArtWeek Boston, including a public art tour and a gallery talk with Lina Viste Grønli. Another citywide festival, HubWeek, featured three public art tours and a special day featuring Kendall Square area creative spaces.

The List Center continued the Ampersand Concert Series, developed in partnership with the MIT campus radio station, WMBR 88.1 FM, with monthly concerts featuring local and touring musicians and composers.

In January 2016, the List Center hosted a workshop series during the Independent Activities Period called "[Beyond the 'Like': Collecting and Contemporary Art.](#)" Students learned about aspects of artwork through institutional critique and viewed works by contemporary artists. They traveled to local galleries to purchase three artworks that were later accessioned into the Student Loan Art Program collection. The new artworks will be available for borrowing in AY2017.

The List Center had a presence during the special MIT centennial celebrations in April 2016. Multiple public tours highlighted the unique story of contemporary art across the campus and brought awareness to the newest Percent-for-Art commissions by Leo Villareal and Antony Gormley.

Marketing and Development

- Achieved attendance of over 21,000 visitors, representing a 20% increase in attendance from last year.
- Raised over \$1,000,000 including \$300,000 for the Venice Biennale, \$600,000 for annual support, and \$100,000 for the newly endowed Jane Farver Memorial Fund.
- Started Director's Circle membership program and received 135 gifts of \$500 and above.
- Launched e-news to over 8,000 monthly subscribers and saw a growth rate 20% in subscribers with 25% of subscribers coming from @MIT.edu email addresses.
- Press highlights: Received reviews and coverage in 42 media outlets including WGBH television broadcast segments, National Public Radio coverage on Boston University's WBUR, the New York Times, the Atlantic, Bomb magazine, the Boston Globe, Artforum, Art in America, Arts Asia Pacific, Mousse Magazine, The Creator's Project (Vice magazine's online arts and culture blog), and Big Red and Shiny.
- Improved website to enhance program and calendar listings, including member events and off-site programming; in addition, a review of the website was conducted to determine further website updates and functionality improvements as these relate to the homepage, collections, and archival content.
- Developed media content for social media, the website, and the List Center's archive, including a series of artist interviews with Rosa Barba, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Leo Villareal, and Tala Madani; a video segment

on the public art collection produced in conjunction with MIT's centennial celebration; video documentation of stand-alone events and programs, including the 2015 Wasserman Forum; a Lavine Lecture on Rosa Barba; and Villa Design Group's theatrical gallery performance of *This Is It or Dawn* at Bar Bazuhka.

Permanent Collection

The List Center added 32 artworks to the permanent collection this year and installed 234 artworks on campus for faculty and staff participating in the campus loan art program. Currently, there are 1,350 artworks sited in various locations across MIT's campus.

Sixteen artworks from the permanent collection were featured in the exhibition *Outer Sense* (August 17, 2015, to August 5, 2016) at The Dean's Gallery, MIT Sloan School of Management (Room E60-300), including works by Jacqueline Humphries, Joan Jonas, Lois Lane, Barbara Morgan, Edda Renouf, and Pat Steir.

Loans from the Permanent Collection

Otto Piene, *Electric Rose* (1965, aluminum, chrome, glow lamps), for exhibition, *Otto Piene. Licht*, June 13, 2015 to September 20, 2015 at LWL—Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Münster.

Permanent Collection Works Conserved

Eight M. C. Escher prints were conserved by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, August 2015: *Ascending and Descending*, *Waterfall*, *Gravity*, *Sun and Moon*, *Three Intersecting Planes*, *Circle Limit IV*, *Mosaic II*, and *Sphere Surface with Fishes*.

Student Loan Art Program Collection

The List Center added 45 artworks to the Student Loan Art Collection this year.

Ten new acquisitions were featured in an exhibition installed August 2015 in the Student Center (W20 3rd floor mezzanine), featuring works by Mel Bochner, Andre Cadere, Eva Kořátková, Luther Price, Sam Pulitzer, Samina Quraeshi, Ludwig Sander, and Kiki Smith.

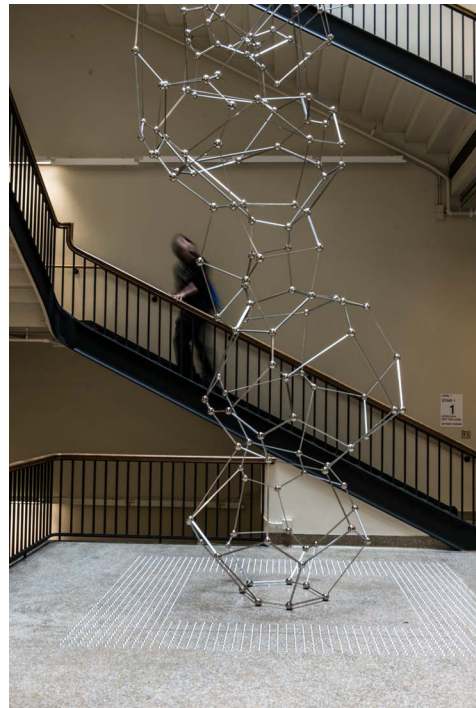
The AY2016 Student Loan Art Program featured 601 exhibited artworks, of which 594 were borrowed by MIT students. There were 2,307 visitors and 933 lottery entrants during the run of the exhibition.

Student Loan Collection Conservation

Jules Halfant, *Albert Einstein* (1948, woodcut), Northeast Document Conservation Center, August 2015.

Percent-For-Art Commissions

Antony Gormley, *Chord* (2016, 905 stainless steel elements of varying section sizes and 541 stainless steel balls), MIT Commission, purchased with MIT Percent-for-Art Funds, Building 2, installation completed in April 2015.



Antony Gormley, Chord (2015, Cellular stainless steel structure that comprises 33 polyhedrons that make up a vertical helical chain, 1706 x 321 x 341 cm). (Courtesy of the artist and MIT). Photo: Peter Vanderwarker.

Leo Villareal, *Light Matrix (MIT)* (2016, LEDs, custom software, electrical hardware, and mirrored stainless steel), MIT Commission, purchased with MIT Percent-for-Art Funds, Building E52, installation completed in April 2015.

Ongoing Percent-for-Art Commissions

Building 66

Nick Mauss is executing his proposal of a multi-part work composed of several glaze-painted ceramic plaques of varying sizes to be installed throughout the five floors of the building. A second component of the installation will be a series of plantings in the existing building's concrete planters in public areas on the second, fourth, and fifth floors.

MIT.nano

Olafur Eliasson's revised proposal for *MIT.nano (Building 12)* has been accepted and the studio is currently working with the architect on integrating the artwork into the building. It is slated to be installed fall 2017 or spring 2018.

Gift to the Public Art Collection

Lore Harp McGovern commissioned *SCIENTIA* (2016), a new bronze sculpture by Ursula von Rydingsvard for the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT. The work will be sited on McGovern Plaza in October 2016.

Public Art

Works conserved include Richard Fleischner, *Upper Courtyard* (1985, granite curved benches and the "cube" benches), conserved by Daedalus, July 2015; Dimitri Hadzi,

Elmo-MIT (1963, bronze); Jacques Lipchitz, *Sacrifice III* (1949–1957, bronze), *Hagar in the Desert* (1957, bronze), *Bather* (1923–25), *Birth of the Muses* (1944–1950, bronze); Henry Moore, *Three-Piece Reclining Figure, Draped* (1976, bronze), annual maintenance of bronzes by Rika McNally & Associates, July through August 2015; Henry Moore, *Reclining Figure* (1963, bronze), conserved by Daedalus, August 2015; Frank Stella, *Loohooloo* (1994, room-size installation, and acrylic on fiberglass), annual maintenance by Williamstown Art Conservation Center, August 2015; Cai Guo-Qiang, *Ring Stone* (2010, granite and seven Japanese black pine trees), pruning, treatment by Hanselman Landscape and Gardens, Manheim, PA, October 2015 and June 2016.



Cai Guo-Qiang's Ring Stone receives pruning treatment by Hanselman Landscape and Gardens.

Additional works conserved include Bernar Venet, *Two Indeterminate Lines* (1993, rolled steel), annual maintenance, oiling, by Fine Arts Enterprises, October 2015; Matthew Ritchie, *Games of Chance and Skill* (2002, mural), consolidated areas of flaking and in-paint areas of loss, by Williamstown Art Conservation Center, November 2015; Frank Stella, *Heads or Tails* (1988, acrylic and enamel on aluminum), consolidated areas of flaking and in-paint areas of loss, by Williamstown Art Conservation Center, November 2015; Lawrence Weiner, *Dead Center* (2008, grey, red, and black granite), caulking replaced, granite cleaned, by Daedalus, November 2015; Scott Burton, *Settee, Bench, and Balustrade* (1985, concrete and painted steel) and *Granite Bench* (1985, granite), cleaned by Daedalus, November 2015; Sarah Sze, *Blue Poles* (2004–06, painted steel and aluminum), protected during renovations at NW86, maintenance and cleaning after renovations by Rika McNally & Associates, January 2016; Richard Fleischner, *Upper Courtyard* (1985, pavers, landscape, furniture, and sculpture), restoration and replacement of four teak and steel benches and two teak modular benches by Dan Ritts, Allen Woodworking, January 2016 and May 2016.

Administrative Changes

Susie Allen will head external relations for the List Center, which will include donor relations, communications, and outreach.

Kelly Sherman has been hired as a part-time consultant tasked with developing and implementing strategies to enhance visitor services.

Betsy Willett was made a full-time employee as a marketing and development associate.

Monica Steinberg has completed her List Curatorial Fellowship appointment and has accepted a two-year appointment as Doheny Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Southern California and The Huntington Library.

Yuri Stone will be the AY2017 List Curatorial Fellow. Stone was program associate at the Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL, from 2010 to 2016. Prior to that appointment he was an intern at the List Center and later served as digital media consultant from 2009 to 2010.

Campus Community Outreach Coordinator Courtney Klemens left the List Center in June 2016 to assume a position at the North Carolina State Museum in Raleigh.

Barbra Pine, administrative assistant, announced her retirement, effective in late summer 2015, after more than 20 years at the Institute, nineteen of them at the List Center. Barbara was replaced by Amy Patacchiola who joined the staff in the fall of 2015.

David Freilach left the List Center in December 2015 to pursue other interests.

The List Center staff provided training for approximately 15 interns from numerous programs and institutions, including Northeastern University, Washington University, the University of Massachusetts-Boston, the University of Washington, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston College, and Hampshire College.

Finances and Funding

- Raised \$675,000 from donors in support of the List Center; also raised funds to endow the \$100,000 for the Jane Farver Memorial Fund.
- Raised almost \$80,000 from the List Center Advisory Committee representing a nearly 100% participation from the group.
- Ended the year with 30 members of the Chairperson's Visional Council, representing individuals, foundations, or MIT departments that made gifts of \$10,000 or over.
- Ended the year with 18 members of the Presenters Level, representing individuals, foundations, or MIT departments that made gifts between \$5,000 and \$9,999.
- Ended the year with 26 members of the Leaders Level, representing individuals, foundations, or MIT departments that made gifts between \$1,500 and \$4,999.
- Ended the year with more than 100 gifts under \$1,499.

Future Goals

The past year has been one of growth and excitement following the success of the Venice Biennale. Going forward, we aim to maintain that momentum by presenting outstanding exhibitions and scholarly research. In addition to maintaining excellence in the galleries, our goals include the following:

- Continue to engage local, national, and international donors to contribute to the List Center's programs and endowment.
- Increase awareness of the List Center's activities to MIT's student, faculty, and administrative audience.
- Increase local, national, and international visibility of the List Center's programs and activities.
- Expand the Advisory Committee and improve long-range planning efforts.
- Increase the collection and create additional programming through the use of the Student Loan Art Program.
- Leverage technology to better provide information about exhibitions, public programs, the Student Loan Art Program, the permanent collection, and the Percent-for-Art program.
- Attract major new gifts of art.
- Seek gifts for the new endowment fund for art conservation.
- Explore options for additional space for exhibitions, art storage, and offices.
- Meet appropriate staffing needs required to maintain the comprehensive exhibitions, publications, and public programming expected of the List Center.
- Enhance the List Center's website to house a digital archive of past exhibitions, ensuring that the List Center is a resource for tracking the careers of artists after they have exhibited at MIT.
- Hire new program coordinator to continue growth in programming for MIT students, faculty, staff, and the general public.
- Launch Corporate Membership Program.
- Continue to grow the List Center's collections as well as administer conservation for acquisitions including the public art collection.
- Connect to the MIT Office of Resource Development to serve as a resource for successful fundraising during the campaign.
- Continue to grow the newly launched travel program, which will serve as a vehicle for connecting List Center donors to MIT alumni in new and engaging ways.
- Augment an endowment fund for the acquisition of works of art for the permanent collection.
- Develop comprehensive educational materials about the MIT Percent-for-Art projects, Student Loan Art Program, and public art collection.
- Seek naming opportunities for staff positions and galleries.

Personnel

List Center director Paul C. Ha was a speaker at the Summer Summit, Carpenter Center for the Arts, Harvard University, in July 2015. Most recently he served as an advisor to The Trustees of Reservations Art and Landscape project and served as an external advisor for the Museum of Fine Arts Thesis Committee, Master of Fine Arts Program, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He is currently an advisor for the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH; Arts Advisory Committee member of the Madison Square Park Conservancy in New York City; Artist Advisory board member, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, in Philadelphia, PA; honorary board member, White Columns, New York City; Innovation Partner, Le Laboratoire, Cambridge, MA; Member of the Creative Arts Council at MIT; board member of World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, MO; and board member of the MIT Museum.

Curator Henriette Huldish lectured as a guest speaker at the School of Visual Arts, New York City; participated in podium discussions with McKnight Visual Artist Fellows at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and with artist Ellen Harvey at Cabinet, New York City. Huldish authored the lead essay for the catalog *Ellen Harvey: The Museum of Failure* (Gregory R. Miller: New York, 2015) and contributed a text to the anthology *Whatever Happened to New Institutionalism?* (Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts: Cambridge, MA; Sternberg Press: Berlin, 2016). She was a guest reviewer for graduate critiques in the MIT Art, Culture and Technology program in the fall semester, and a visiting critic for MFA thesis presentations at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in the spring.

Assistant Curator Alise Upitis was an invited speaker for the annual History of Science Society meeting in Edmonton, Canada and participated on a panel about art and cybernetics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She was invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the MIT Press and as guest reviewer for the spring semester in the MIT Program in Art, Culture, and Technology

Advisory Committee

The List Center Advisory Committee, comprised of MIT alumni, art professionals, artists, and collectors, met three times at MIT during 2015–2016 season. Currently there are 25 active members including three ex-officio members: Philip Khoury, Paul C. Ha, and Leila Kinney.

Geoff Hargadon agreed to renew his three-year term as the chairman of the Advisory Committee and we are deeply grateful for his leadership. Three new members were elected to the committee this year: John Frishkopf, Drew Katz, and Lucy Moon-Lim.

After many years of combined service, members Susan Cohen, Susan Leff, Marjorie Jacobson, and John Melick stepped down during the year. Two new members are being actively courted.

Paul C. Ha
Director