

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 AY2017, the List Center presented a dynamic program of nine 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 60 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.

Current 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 resite 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 with MIT's community of faculty and students, as well as the Boston area and beyond by providing more interpretive outreach programs.
- Continue to increase media presence through innovative use of social media and digital marketing.
- Grow the Advisory Committee of the List Center to garner additional support and leadership.

- Increase staffing levels to enhance the List Center’s 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 2015 Venice Biennale.

Accomplishments

Staffing

Three new full time staff were hired to replace a number of employees who either retired or moved on from MIT.

Updated Strategic Plan

With the addition of new staff members, the List Center organized a staff retreat to review and update the strategic plan accordingly.

Training for Gallery Staff

In keeping with museum best practices, the List Center initiated formal training sessions for gallery staff to enhance visitor experience. Training focused on customer service, as well as the content and context of List Center exhibitions.

Public Art Collection

Two new public art commissions were completed in AY2017:

- 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 April, 2015.
- Ursula von Rydingsvard, *SCIENTIA* (2016, bronze), Gift commissioned by Lore Harp McGovern, Building 46 Installation completed 2016.



Workers install Ursula von Rydingsvard’s commissioned sculpture *SCIENTIA* (2016) at MIT’s McGovern Institute for Brain Research.

Photo: MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Exhibition Highlights

The List Center organized nine exhibitions in the galleries including *An Inventory of Shimmers: Objects of Intimacy in Contemporary Art*, a major group exhibition featuring 12 international artists. In addition to main gallery exhibition programming, the List Center presented off-cycle exhibitions including three *List Projects* (a series of exhibitions focusing on the work of emerging artists), as well as one off-site exhibition for the Dean's Gallery, MIT's Sloan School of Management (Room E60–300).

The List Center published three catalogs in AY2017: *Tala Madani: First Light* (MIT List Visual Arts Center and DelMonic Books-Prestel, 2016); *Rosa Barba: The Color Out of Space* (MIT List Visual Arts Center and Dancing Foxes Press, 2017); and *An Inventory of Shimmers: Objects of Intimacy in Contemporary Art* (MIT List Visual Arts Center and DelMonico Books-Prestel, 2017). All were published in conjunction with eponymous exhibitions and were edited by List Center curator Henriette Huldish. All three catalogs featured contributions from a wide range of scholars.

Exhibitions on View July 2016 through May 2017

- *List Projects: Ethan Hayes-Chute*
July 19, 2016 to October 16, 2016
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.
- *Dean's Gallery Exhibition: Elbow Room*
August 15, 2016 to August 7, 2017
- *Student Loan Art Program Exhibition and Lottery*
August 30, 2016 to September 11, 2016
- *Edgar Arceneaux: Written in Smoke and Fire*
October 14, 2016 to January 8, 2017
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.



Edgar Arceneaux, Until, Until, Until. . . , (2016, HD video installation; spotlights, coat stand, makeup table, stool, clothing, hats, shoes, drop curtains, bar, monitors, book). Courtesy the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects.

Exhibition installation view of Edgar Arceneaux: Written in Smoke and Fire at MIT List Visual Arts Center (October 14, 2016 to January 8, 2017).

Photo: Peter Harris Studio.

- *List Projects: Andrea Crespo*
January 10, 2017 to February 19, 2017
Curated by Alise Upitis with Yuri Stone, assistant curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.

- *Charlotte Moth: Seeing while Moving*
February 17, 2017 to April 16, 2017
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.
- *Gwenneth Boelens: At Odds*
February 17, 2017 to April 16, 2017
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.



Exhibition installation view of Gwenneth Boelens: At Odds, MIT List Visual Arts Center (February 17 2017 to April 16, 2017).

Photo: Peter Harris Studio.

- *List Projects: Kenneth Tam*
April 18, 2017 to May 21, 2017
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.
- *An Inventory of Shimmers: Objects of Intimacy in Contemporary Art*
May 19, 2017 to July 16, 2017
Curated by Henriette Huldish, curator, MIT List Visual Arts Center.



Exhibition installation view of An Inventory of Shimmers: Objects of Intimacy in Contemporary Art at MIT List Visual Arts Center (May 19, 2017 to July 16, 2017).

Photo: Peter Harris Studio.

Programs and Student Outreach

The List Center presented a Lavine Lecture, “Nature Is Never Finished: Land Art Conservation in the 21st Century.” This program was offered in connection with the History, Theory, and Criticism of Art and Architecture Program’s course [4.S67 Landscape Experience: Seminar in Land/Art](#), co-taught by Caroline A. Jones and Rebecca Uchill in fall 2016. The 2016 Dorothy and Leroy Lavine Lecture featured a discussion between Francesca Esmay and James Nisbet, on the complex matter of eroding land forms within the cultural context of shifting categories of nature and culture.

Most public programs presented during AY2017 were designed in coordination with specific exhibitions. Programs included curator-led reading discussions; artist-led talks and workshops; film screenings; and discussions in the galleries led by List Center staff, MIT faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and students.

The List Center collaborated with other MIT departments to co-sponsor programs that were of mutual interest. From January 2017 to April 2017, the List Center offered a series of slow-looking workshops as part of the campuswide [MindHandHeart Initiative](#). In March 2017, the List Center worked with the MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies and the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies to co-host two Women Take the Reel film festival events. On March 7, 2017, the List Center and MIT Global Studies and Languages co-hosted Art / Protest / Value: Dissolve Inequality Visual Arts Summit, a book launch and panel discussion with speakers Sharon Loudon, Hrag Vartanian, and Julia Kunin, moderated by MIT professor Ian Condry. Additionally, the List Center and the MIT Literature Section co-sponsored "Thinking Feeling: An Affect Symposium," presented as a precursor to the List Center's exhibition *An Inventory of Shimmers*. This full-day symposium featured leading affect theorists Brian Price, Kathleen Stewart, and Karen Redrobe.

Staff-led tours of exhibitions and the public art collection on campus were offered to over 40 groups. Over 750 guests attended the tours, including MIT faculty, staff, and students; visitors from other universities, largely the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts; and the general public.

The List Center continued its series of Graduate Student Talks. Graduate students across the Institute provided public talks about their respective research in the context of an exhibition, or particular artwork on view. Graduate Student Talks were presented in conjunction with the exhibitions *Gwenneth Boelens: At Odds*; *Charlotte Moth: Seeing while Moving*; and *An Inventory of Shimmers*.



For her Graduate Student Gallery Talk, Andrea Ling (MIT Media Lab) discusses exhibiting artist Gwenneth Boelens's use of unusual art materials. Photo: MIT List Visual Arts Center.

The List Center's collaborative relationship with Catalyst Conversations continued throughout AY2017, with the List Center hosting four lectures. In 2017, the partnership evolved to reflect a stronger emphasis on supporting the List Center's mission by inviting MIT faculty to participate, and to thematically connect to exhibitions on view.

A number of the List Center's events and programs were featured during various citywide events including ArtWeek Boston, HubWeek, Common Boston, and the Cambridge Science Festival.

The List Center continued the Ampersand Concert Series, developed in partnership with MIT's campus radio station, WMBR 88.1 FM. This music performance series features local and touring musicians and composers. The concert schedule was adapted from monthly to seasonal concerts for AY2017.

In January 2017, the List Center announced a new educational initiative to train student guides to lead tours of exhibitions and the public art collection. A group of four MIT undergraduate students completed the training program in April 2017, and led public and private group tours through the end of the academic year.

The List Center participated in Campus Preview Weekend activities in April 2017. Multiple public tours highlighted the campus public art collection and brought awareness to the Percent-for-Art program.

The List Center hosted four MIT student events in conjunction with the Student Loan Art Program. Events included a graduate student reception, Arts on the Radar, a brunch, and a tour of the exhibition.

Marketing and Development

- Achieved attendance of over 21,000 visitors. While overall attendance was flat, gallery visits increased substantially and we discontinued family day programming, which drew large numbers, but was not mission driven.
- Continued successful development of the Director's Circle membership program and received 95 gifts of \$500 and above. Added a level of \$25,000 as an exhibition sponsor and received five gifts at or above this level.
- Continued success in growing all social media platforms.
- Press highlights: Reviews and coverage in multiple media outlets included *The New Yorker*; the *New York Times*; *Artforum*; *Art in America*; *Art News*; *W Magazine*; *Toronto Star*; *Artnet*; *art ltd. magazine*; *Hyperallergic*; *Harper's Bazaar*; the *Boston Globe*; *Big Red and Shiny*; *Flash Art Boston Magazine*; and *Blouin ArtInfo*.
- Created a [digital app for public art and architecture tours](#) and released a newly redesigned [campus map of the public art collection](#), available online as well as in print.
- Created new signage and banners as part of a continued emphasis on campus outreach, marketing, and branding efforts.

- Media content developed for social media, the List Center website, and the List Center archive included a series of artist interviews with Ethan Hayes Chute, Edgar Arceneaux, Charlotte Moth, and Gwenneth Boelens; and archival video documentation of stand-alone events and programs including “Thinking Feeling: An Affect Symposium,” and the 2016 Lavine Lecture “Nature is Never Finished: Land Art Conservation in the 21st Century.”

Permanent Collection

The List Center added three artworks to the permanent collection. The List Center installed 175 artworks on campus this year for faculty and staff participating in our Campus Loan Art Program. Currently there are 1,469 artworks sited in various locations across MIT’s campus.

Thirteen artworks from the permanent collection are in the exhibition, *Elbow Room* (August 15, 2016 to August 7, 2017) at the Dean’s Gallery, MIT Sloan School of Management (E60–300) featuring works by Nicole Cherubini, Andy Warhol, Rosa Barba, Katrín Sigurdardóttir, and Brian Zink.

Loans from the Permanent Collection

Rico Gatson, RA (2015, color pencil and photocollage on paper), for the exhibition, *Rico Gatson: Icons 2007–2017*, April 19, 2017 to August 27, 2017 at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Permanent Collection Works Conserved

- Jackie Ferrara, *Drawing For Tang Center Addition - Tang Center Addition* (1993, pencil and colored pencil on graph paper; five total): Northeast Document Conservation Center, August 2016.
- Yoshiaki Shimizu, *Untitled* (1963, oil on canvas): Carmichael Art Conservation, October 2016.
- Thomas Doughty, *Romantic Landscape* (1835, oil on canvas): MIT Libraries, Conservation and Preservation, April 2017.

Student Loan Art Program Collection

The List Center added 17 artworks to the Student Loan Art Collection in AY2017.

Eleven new acquisitions were displayed in an exhibition installed August 2016 in the Student Center’s (W20) third-floor mezzanine, featuring works by Margaret Wood, Chris Martin, Joe Fig, August Ventimiglia, and Rashid Johnson.

The AY2017 Student Loan Art Program featured 596 exhibited artworks, and MIT students borrowed 593 artworks. There were 3,428 visitors and 975 lottery entrants during the run of the exhibition.

Student Loan Collection Conservation

There were no student loan works conserved in FY2017.

Percent-For-Art Commissions

MIT and the List Center have established a relationship with the Department of Transportation's Volpe Center, and will facilitate the commissioning of an artwork through a partnership with the US General Services Administration. The artwork is to be sited on the grounds of the Volpe Center facility in Kendall Square. Installation is scheduled for 2022.

The List Center has been central to the commissioning of new public artwork to be installed in Kendall Square as part of MIT's [Kendall Square Initiative](#), a multiyear project bringing five new buildings to Main Street. The conversation around Percent-for-Art and the beginning steps for organizing the first of several commissions began in May 2017, with artwork to be installed in 2020.

It was announced that a major renovation will take place on the west side of MIT's campus on Building W70, to be completed by summer 2018. The List Center will commission a Percent-for-Art work in conjunction with the renovation.

It was announced that MIT will build a new residential dormitory on Vassar Street with construction to be completed by 2020. The List Center will commission a Percent-for-Art work to accompany the dormitory.

Ongoing Percent-for-Art Projects

Olafur Eliasson's *Northern Passage*, an installation that will occupy the ceiling of the breezeway and entrance to MIT's new nanotechnology laboratory, MIT.nano, is in the process of being fabricated. Eliasson's light sculptures will be installed in fall 2017, to be unveiled the following summer.

Epipremnum aureum "Golden Pothos," a lush climbing vine, has been installed in the concrete planters throughout the central stairwell of the Chemical Engineering Building (Building 66) as part of Nick Mauss's multipart artwork. Conversations are underway regarding a new lighting design for the stairwell to highlight the architecture as well as properly illuminate the ceramic panels Mauss will be fabricating in summer 2017.

Gifts to the Public Art Collection

There were three gifts to the List Center's Public Art Collection in AY2017.

- Ursula von Rydingsvard, *SCIENTIA* (2016, bronze), A gift commissioned by Lore Harp McGovern for the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and the Public Art Collection of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Matt Johnson, *Untitled (Swan)* (2016, bent train track), Anonymous gift.
- Robert Katz, *The Five Books of Moses* (2011, steel, cast plaster, cloth, and found objects), Gift of Elliot K. Wolk, Class of 1957.

Public Art Collection Works Conserved

- Alexander Calder, *The Big Sail (La Grande Voile)* (1965, painted steel): Daedalus, July 2016.
- Dimitri Hadzi, *Elmo-MIT* (1963, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, July 2016.
- Jacques Lipchitz
 - *Bather* (1923–1925, bronze): annual maintenance Daedalus, July 2016 and June 2017.
 - *Birth of the Muses* (1944–1950, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, July 2016 and June 2017.
 - *Hagar in the Desert* (1957, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, July 2016 and June 2017.
 - *Sacrifice III* (1949–1957, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, July 2016 and June 2017.
- Henry Moore
 - *Reclining Figure* (1963, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2017.
 - *Three-Piece Reclining Figure, Draped* (1976, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2017.
- Sol LeWitt, *Wall Drawing #254* (1975, wall drawing, black pencil descriptions, white crayon, yellow wall): Williamstown Art Conservation, August 2016.
- Beverly Pepper, *Trinity (formerly Dunes I)* (1971, Cor-Ten steel, rust skin): Daedalus, July 2016.
- Matthew Ritchie, *Games of Skill and Chance* (2002, mixed media hallway installation): annual maintenance, Williamstown Art Conservation, August 2016.
- Frank Stella
 - *Heads or Tails* (1988, acrylic and enamel on aluminum): annual maintenance, Williamstown Art Conservation, August 2016.
 - *Looooloo* (1994, room-size installation, acrylic on fiberglass): annual maintenance, Williamstown Art Conservation, August 2016.
- Sarah Sze, *Blue Poles* (2004–2006, painted steel and aluminum): Rika Smith McNally and Associates, July 2016.
- Leo Villareal, *Light Matrix* (2016, LEDs, custom software, electrical hardware, mirrored stainless steel): Parallel Development, July 2016.

Administrative Changes

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

Yuri Stone was promoted from curatorial fellow to full-time assistant curator.

Emily Garner, formerly affiliated with the deCordova Museum was hired as outreach and campus community coordinator.

Ariana Webber was hired as registrar and funding was approved to hire a second, full-time registrar to begin in July 2017.

Jamin An was selected to be the List Center's AY2018 Curatorial Fellow. An is currently a PhD candidate in Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Emily Watlington, graduate student in the History, Theory, and Criticism of Art and Architecture Program at MIT, continued on as a curatorial research assistant for the List Center. She contributed an essay to the catalog published in conjunction with the exhibition *An Inventory of Shimmers*.

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

Finances and Funding

- Raised \$580,000 from donors in support of the List Center.
- Raised almost \$70,000 from the List Center Advisory Committee representing almost 100% participation from the group.
- Ended the year with nine exhibition sponsors, representing individuals, foundations, and MIT departments that made gifts over \$25,000.
- Ended the year with 12 members of the Chairperson's Visionary Council, representing individuals, foundations, and MIT departments that made gifts over \$10,000.
- Ended the year with 19 members of the Presenters Level, representing individuals, foundations, and MIT departments that made gifts between \$5,000 and \$9,999.
- Ended the year with 14 members of the Leaders Level, representing individuals, foundations, and MIT departments that made gifts between \$1,500 and \$4,999.
- Ended the year with over 36 gifts under \$1,499.

Future Goals

The past year has been one of growth and excitement following the success of the 2015 Venice Biennale. Going forward, we aim to maintain that momentum by presenting outstanding exhibitions and scholarly research. In addition to maintaining exceptional and high-quality programming 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, through the use of the Student Loan Art Program, create additional programming.
- 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 exhibition, publications, and public programming expected of the List Center.
- Enhance the website to house digital archives for past exhibitions ensuring that the List Center serves as a resource for tracking the careers of artists after they've exhibited at MIT.
- Continue to grow the collections as well as administer conservation for acquisitions including the public art collection.
- Connect to MIT 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 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 all of the MIT Percent-for-Art projects, Student Loan Art Program, and art on campus.
- Seek naming opportunities for staff positions and galleries.

Personnel Information

List Center director Paul C. Ha was invited to serve a four-year term on the board of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Over the last year, he participated as juror for ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, MI, along with Michelle Grabner, artist and professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Eric Shiner, director of the Andy Warhol Museum. Ha presented a lecture at Lesley University titled "Surviving the Art World." He participated on a panel at the ICA/Boston with Lindsay Pollack, Bridgitt Evans, and Matt Saunders, and was a juror for both the Cape Cod Museum of Art and the Cambridge Art Association. Additionally he participated as a member of the Career Support Committee; was a Liaison for the Mentorship Program for the American Association of Art Museum Curators; and served as a guest curator for Boston City Hall.

Ha is currently advisor for the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH; serves as an Arts Advisory Committee member for the Madison Square Park conservancy in New York City; is an artist advisory board member of The Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia, PA; an honorary board member of White Columns gallery in New York City; innovation partner of Le Laboratoire in Cambridge, MA; a member of the Creative Arts Council at MIT; a board member of the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, MO; and a board member of the MIT Museum, Cambridge, MA.

Curator Henriette Huldish currently serves on MIT's Center for Art, Science and Technology selection committee for visiting artist and faculty development grants. She led a conversation with artist Edgar Arceneaux at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and was an invited speaker for the symposium "Drag Face" organized by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in fall 2016. Together with the English literature section at MIT, she organized the symposium "Thinking Feeling: An Affect Symposium" in May 2017. She was a visiting critic for MFA thesis presentations at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts.

Assistant Curator Yuri Stone served as a guest curator at City Wide Open Studios 2016, an annual event of Artspace in New Haven, CT.

Curatorial research assistant Emily Watlington was invited to moderate two panels in MIT's Department of Architecture: one on women in academia and feminism in curricula, the other on politics in practice. She contributed to the List Center's exhibition catalog *An Inventory of Shimmers*, and was appointed contributing critic for *Mousse Magazine*. In addition, her art criticism appeared in *Art Papers*, *Sequitur*, and *ESPACE*. Her article "Love, By the Book: On Affective Cliché's in Sophie Calle's *Double Game*" received the Vera List Writing Prize for Visual Arts and will be published in the scholarly journal *Život Umjetnosti*. "Fear and Boredom on a Feedback Loop: Brazen Apathy in Ryan Trecartin's *Junior War*" is forthcoming in the edited, peer-reviewed volume *Analog Living in a Digital World* (Virginia Commonwealth University). She received the Mentor of the Year Award from MIT's Office of Minority Education, served as a peer reviewer for MIT Architecture's journal, *Thresholds*, and was awarded three research travel grants: the Harold Horowitz '51 Research Fund, the Louis C. Rosenberg (1913) Travel Fellowship, and the William J. Mitchell ++ Research Fund.

Advisory Committee

The List Center Advisory Committee—which comprises MIT alumni, artists, and collectors—met three times at MIT during AY2017. Currently, there are 25 active members including three ex-officio members: Philip Khoury, Paul C. Ha, and Leila Kinney. The spring meeting featured a Think Tank on Public Art with guest speaker Yvonne Force Villareal of the Art Production Fund.

Three new members have agreed to serve pending formal nominations this fall.

After many years of combined service, members Stephen Prina, Lindsay Coolidge, and Martin Zimmerman stepped down upon completion of their second consecutive terms in June 2017.

Paul C. Ha
Director