

The Art, Culture, and Technology Program at MIT

The Art, Culture, and Technology (ACT) program at MIT is an academic program and center of critical art practice, intelligence, and discourse within the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P). ACT is led by distinguished artist-professors and supported by a diverse cast of practitioner graduate students, staff, visiting artist-lecturers, affiliates, and guests. Through an integrated approach to pedagogy, a dynamic coterie of visiting artists and research affiliates, public event programming, and publication ACT builds a community of artist-thinkers around the exploration of art's complex conjunctions with culture and technology. The program's mission is to promote leadership in critical artistic practice and deployment; develop art as a vital means of experimenting with new technologies, registers of knowledge, and new modes of valuation and expression.

Over the last year, ACT continued to re-examine our academic programs and role as a research center. The program had a busy and productive year post-COVID and thrived through significant changes. Some key accomplishments include:

- Introduced structural changes regarding co-teaching practices. By prioritizing complementary skills, ACT encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration. We devised criteria for scheduling classes to benefit students, increase enrollment, and support junior faculty.
- ACT created a thesis advisor/advisee matchmaking system to prevent competition and conflicts.
- Recognizing the importance of financial support for art students, ACT reorganized the program's budget. This allowed the program to offer full tuition for the entire incoming ACT student cohort, reaching the Dean's goal.
- We collaborated with the SA+P and MIT Development Officers to strategize ACT fundraising efforts, creating a framework for the ACT budget, establishing a guideline for a coherent approach for all expenses, and defining this with reference to our curricular needs.
- ACT organized Arts on the Radar, an impressive series of art activities, including a large dance party at the Cube, attracting students and visitors from the entire campus. This event, attended by 570 students, fostered collaboration between ACT, Arts at MIT, and the List Visual Arts Center, which traditionally co-organized the event. Given the data on the post-Pandemic psychological effects on the student body at institutions of higher education, this operated as a needed boost to student morale.
- Professor Azra Aksamija and ACT's Academic Associate, Claudine Monique, made great strides in updating ACT's permanent classes in the course catalog.
- ACT's public programming produced seventeen valuable in-person events this year, including hosting a screening and discussion of Abigail Disney's, *The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales*.

- The successful roll-out of the ACT Student Art Gallery (with grant support from the Center of Art at MIT [CAMIT]).
- ACT completed a comprehensive renovation of ACT's central corridor which demonstrates the program's history and impact.
- ACT graduated the program's largest SMACT class in its history.
- ACT experienced significant staffing changes, including hiring a new Director of Administration and Finance, Academic Associate, and Media Assistant.
- The program successfully moved the CAVS archive to the MIT Libraries, facilitating the preservation and access to its valuable history.

Selected Artistic Output

Faculty

Azra Akšamija

Azra Akšamija accomplishments included winning prestigious awards including the Architectural League New York's Emerging Voices in 2022 and securing the 2nd prize for the Intercultural Place of Remembrance design competition in Leipzig, DE. She actively contributed to curriculum development, offering a new course titled "Toxic Textiles/Fashion Fables" at ACT, which explores the impact of clothing on culture, society, politics, and the environment. Her newly commissioned artwork, "Coring America," exhibited at the MIT Museum, has garnered widespread attention and media coverage. Akšamija's work is currently showcased in her solo exhibition "Zwischenspiel: Nomadische Moschee" at the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, and she is working on her mid-career retrospective at the Kunsthau Graz in June 2024. In respect to service, Akšamija has played key roles on Institute and Departmental committees and co-chaired the Digital, Performing, and Visual Experiences working group of the Ad Hoc Committee on Arts, Culture, and DEI at MIT, contributing to creating a more inclusive and diverse campus environment. Additionally, her involvement in the selection committee for the MIT Public Art Collection and the McDermott Award has supported exceptional talent and enriched the visual landscape of the campus.

Judith Barry

ACT Professor Judith Barry was a part of several group exhibitions including Style Congo: Heritage and Heresy, CIVA, Brussels as well as Topologies of the Real, Techne Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art / Urban Planning, Shenzhen, China, among others. Barry was a lecturer at the conference The Practice of Criticism, Universitat fur Angewandte Kunst Wien, Austria, and participated in several public conversations including at CIVA, Brussels, Belgium, and The Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria. Her work is featured in the recent Phaidon book, *Internet_Art*, by Omar Kholeif.

Renée Green

Renée Green was the recipient of the [Finkenwerder Art Prize 2022](#), hosted by Hamburg's Hochschule für bildende Künste (HfbK). As part of the award, HfbK is hosting a solo

exhibition of Green's work: *Vide ma tête/Selection/Combination: All Variable Elements*; Green reconfigured the newly built Galerie der HfbK in Hamburg and presented her new *Space Poem #8 (Vide ma tête)* in a library-like environment featuring all the publications by the artist, which now form part of HfbK's Library collection. Renée Green was awarded the [Lida A. Orzeck '68 Distinguished Artist-in-Residence for 2023 by Barnard College](#). Recognized for her densely layered, multifaceted artworks, which include multimedia installations, films, sound-based works, and photography, Green began her one-year residency with an exhibition of recent works at the Barnard Library in the Milstein Center for Teaching and Learning in New York City.

Gediminas Urbonas

ACT Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas' work was featured in six international group exhibitions including the 18th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, 17th Istanbul Biennial in Turkey, the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, OH, and the Art & Democracy at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. Urbonas was a keynote speaker at twenty one public lectures internationally including Kingston University London in UK, RCA London in UK, The New School for Social Research NYC. Urbonas has also convened and curated two international conferences - *Artistic Intelligence? Making it together in the Multispecies World* at University of Bologna in Italy, and *CoHappiness. Rewilding & Rethinking* - an International Congress at Kaunas European Capital of Culture.

Nida Sinnokrot

Nida Sinnokrot was promoted to Associate Professor without Tenure July 1, 2023.

Lecturers

Lara Baladi

Lara Baladi's *The Friday of Victory on Tahrir Square* (2011) was one of the photographs selected by The Guardian for their feature "'It felt like history itself' – 48 protest photographs that changed the world."

Hector Membreno-Canales

In 2022-2023 ACT Lecturer Hector Membreno-Canales was included in a group exhibition, [Surviving the Long Wars: Reckon and Reimagine](#), at the Chicago Cultural Center. He was included in the [Smithsonian Institution's](#) inaugural class of modern-day US Army Monuments Officers, and was later named the Francis C. Robertson Instructor of Photography at Phillips Academy, Andover.

Research Activities

Integrated Approach to Pedagogy

ACT subjects and faculty research are interwoven. There are seven active research projects that are, or will be, tied to ACT subjects:

- Embodiment in Contemporary Art in relation to Machine Learning and Machine Vision (J. Barry). Professor Judith Barry explores themes of embodiment in contemporary art and architecture. Barry’s research also extends her artistic and pedagogical work toward understandings of machine learning and machine vision as they relate to embodiment in contemporary art and architecture.
- Artistic Methodologies (J. Barry). Barry investigates ways to use scientific data and technologies to create new aesthetic experiences; SP22 seminar 4.s32 Artist, Tinkerer, Architect, Engineer.
- Cinematic Migrations (R. Green). 4.356/7 Cinematic Migrations is a multi-faceted look at the role of cinema’s transmutations over time.
- Synchronizations of Senses (R. Green). This body of research centers on testing various ways aesthetic forms and their shifts — historic and contemporary — are related to still emerging contemporary subjectivities; 4.359 Synchronizations of Senses was taught in the spring.
- Climate Visions (G. Urbonas). Urbonas’s research speculates on interspecies ecologies and probes the usefulness of the concept “sympoiesis” toward imagining and working together in radical interdisciplinarity toward desirable futures.
- Future Heritage Lab (A. Akšamija). The Future Heritage Lab explores creative responses to conflict and crisis, highlighting the role of art as a tool for creating hope, social healing, and peaceful coexistence in response to war, migration, and forced displacement.
- Art/Science/Agriculture (N. Sinnokrot). Sinnokrot’s research scrutinizes the intersection of art, science, and agriculture and offers students the opportunity to develop projects as a means for addressing the social, cultural, and ecological consequences of technology.

Selected Exhibitions: Faculty, Student, and Alumni (outside of ACT)

Renée Green, Professor Emerita Joan Jonas, and CAVS Fellow Nam June Paik were featured in *The Double: Identity and Difference in Art since 1900*, July 10 - October 31, 2022 at the National Gallery in Washington, DC.

Invited by FRONT International 2022 to produce a project for moCa Cleveland, artist and ACT Professor Renée Green conceived *Contact*, a sprawling exhibition occupying all of moCa’s public spaces, radiating into the city as a series of public programs involving workshops and lectures, as well as a cinematic screening series at the Case Western Reserve University Film Society. The exhibition and programming ran from July 16 - December 31, 2022. Invited participants and exhibited works from ACT include those of: Laura Serejo Genes (SMACT ’18), Nolan Oswald Dennis (SMACT ’18), Suneil Sanzgiri (SMACT ’17), Jessica Sarah Rinland (SMACT ’18), Ian Soroka (SMACT ’15), and Pedro Zylbersztajn (SMACT ’18).

Beth Galston's (SMVisS '81) [Ice Forest](#) was a site-specific installation on view through October 24, 2022 within Chesterwood's Woodland Gallery. In *Ice Forest*, hundreds of translucent cast resin rose stems are suspended to create an icy forest.

Azra Aksamija/Future Heritage Lab's [Coring America](#) opened at the MIT Museum on October 2, 2022. The installation probes what it means to be American today through the techno-economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions embedded in the T-Shirt.

CAVS Fellow Julia Scher's exhibition [Maximum Security Society](#), was on view at Kunsthalle Zürich from October 8 - January 15, 2023. Scher has traced the gradual emergence of a 'maximum security society' since the 1980s.

Reina Suyeon Mun's (SMACT '23) [Chaotic Timer](#) was part of Dutch Design Week 2022, running from October 22-30, 2022. *Chaotic Timer* is an interactive and algorithmic timer driven by an input of a user's stress level.

Azra Aksamija and Future Heritage Lab were featured in the [Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2022](#), which ran from September 29 - December 5, 2022.

The exhibition [Nam June Paik: I Expose the Music](#) by Museum Ostwall at the Dortmunder U in Dortmund, Germany, presents the work of video art pioneer and CAVS Fellow Nam June Paik by focusing on live moments that run like a thread through his artistic career. The exhibition ran from March 16 - August 27, 2023.

Judith Barry's [The Work of the Forest](#) is featured in the exhibition *Style Congo: Heritage and Heresy* at CIVA in Brussels, Belgium. The exhibition is on view from March 17 – September 3, 2023.

[Navigating the Sky](#), by Azra Akšamija, co-authored with Dr. Dietmar Offenhuber, Chair of the Art + Design Department at Northeastern University. This work explored the relationship between sensory and scientific concepts of the celestial environment. Their 4 min room-sized animation was commissioned for the traveling exhibition *Atmospheres: Art, Science, and Space Research*, within the Austrian state exhibition *Diversity of Life: Showing Styria 2023*; it was on view from March 23 – April 4 at the Mobile Pavillion at the Heldenplatz, Vienna, and from April 29 – May 11 at the Tierwelt Herberstein in Austria.

[Interfaces de lo Invisible](#), an exhibition by Jesus (Chucho) Ocampo (SMACT '21) and Chi Po Hao (SMACT '21), aimed to work with the incommensurability of environmental processes and their planetary scales by utilizing physical interfaces that create effective ways of relating to the environment and big data sets. It was on view at Museo de la Ciudad de Querétaro, México from November 23, 2022 - April 15, 2023.

Suneil Sanzgiri's (SMACT '17) trilogy of short films probes the intersection between his family's history in Goa, India, and stories of global solidarity, freedom fighters, and neocolonial extractive forces. They are on view in the exhibition [to see oneself at a distance](#) at MASS MoCA through April 2024.

Michael Rakowitz's (SMVisS '98) [*I'm good at love, I'm good at hate, it's in between I freeze*](#) was on view at the Barbara Wien Gallery from April 28 – July 29, 2023, and was featured as part of Gallery Weekend Berlin.

Erin Genia (SMACT '19), a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe, hung a 20-foot banner installation from the Nicollet Tower on the Lake Traverse Reservation. The work is called [*"Wičhaŋpi,"*](#) which translates to "star" in Dakota, a language of the Sioux Nation.

Nomeda & Gediminas Urbonas's [*Druzhiba*](#) was presented at the *If Disrupted, It Becomes Tangible – Infrastructures and Solidarities after post-Soviet Condition* exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Vilnius. It was on view from April 1 - June 18, 2023.

Nomeda & Gediminas Urbonas's [*Swamp Observatory*](#), are featured at the "The Children's Forest Pavilion" – the Lithuanian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The Swamp Observatory uses Augmented Reality to unveil invisible and imaginative ecosystems of the planned stormwater ponds for the future city district Visborg in Visby, Gotland Island, Sweden. It is on view from May 20 - November 26, 2023, in Venice.

Azra Aksamija and the Future Heritage Lab's [*Living Heritage Atlas Beirut*](#), which geolocated and mapped 160+ craftspeople and highlights their contribution to the reconstruction of the city's center following the devastating blast of August 4th, 2020, was featured at the collateral exhibition of Venice Architecture Biennale 2023 "Time Space Existence." The show runs from May 20 to November 26 at the European Cultural Centre (ECC) in Venice, Italy.

[*Aberturas*](#), a solo exhibition by artist Marisa Morán Jahn (SMVisS '07) and architect Rafi Segal, ran from June 2 - July 15, 2023, at Sapar Contemporary and brought focus to the aesthetic language characterizing the collaborative duo's socially engaged, civic scale projects.

[*Counteractions*](#) was an off-site exhibition by the students from the Art, Culture, and Technology program at MIT (ACT), running from May 25 - August 5, 2023, at the Distillery Gallery, South Boston. This curation offers a glimpse into each artists' research, process, and conceptual frameworks. Featuring work by: Christopher Joshua Benton (SMACT '23), Zhanyi Chen (SMACT '24), Mrinalini Singha (SMACT '24), Hyun Parke (Hyun Woo Park) (SMACT '23), Ishraki Kazi (SMACT '23), Cristóbal García Belmont (SMACT '23), Luca Senise (SMACT '23), Aubrie James (SMACT '24), Alejandro Medina (SMACT '23), Reina Mun (SMACT '23), and Ashmi Mridul (SMACT '23).

CAVS Fellow Tamiko Thiel's [*Waldwandel / Forest Flux*](#) provided an immersive encounter with how climate change is affecting the Bavarian forests at the Kunsthalle Munich from February 3 - August 27, 2023. Thiel's [*#JulietToo*](#) AR installation, sited at the Juliet Capulet sculpture in Marienplatz, Munich is ongoing indefinitely.

Selected Publications

Raafat Majzoub (SMACT '17) edits the biannual series, "Dongola Architecture Series" (DAS), which aims to highlight the thoughts, processes, and social impact of leading architects from the MENASA region beyond their built work.

Marisa Morán Jahn (SMVisS '07) and Rafi Segal's [Design & Solidarity](#) (Columbia University Press, 2023) explores the power of design, art, and architecture in shaping emergent forms of mutualism, fulfilling their promise of solidarity, and ensuring that these values endure.

Christopher Joshua Benton's (SMACT '23) peer-reviewed research investigating foodways and Black radicality in the Nation of Islam was published in the [MIT Thresholds Architectural Journal Volume 51: HEAT](#), published by MIT Press.

Ryan Aasen's (SMACT '20) essay, "[New Media, Old Problems: Racial Stereotypes in AI Image Generation](#)," was published on Medium. In it, he explores the power of AI generators and the images they can create.

ACT Students – Selected Honors and Recognition

Christopher Joshua Benton (SMACT '23) was awarded a [2022 Emerging Visionary grant](#) from Meta/ Instagram in collaboration with Antwaun Sargent and the Brooklyn Museum.

Reina Mun (SMACT '23) was awarded the [2023 Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts at MIT](#).

ACT Gallery

ACT initiated a pilot grant program in fall 2023 to create an experimental art gallery and explore how to distribute funds for this program effectively. Throughout the year ten \$1,500 grants were awarded to ACT students to fund different art shows and/or artistic experiments. This project was successful in achieving its goals to provide students experience applying for grants, experience producing a show, and funding ACT students' artistic research.

Academic Program

Master of Science in Art, Culture and Technology

The Art, Culture, and Technology program at MIT offers a two-year, graduate program leading to a Master of Science in Art, Culture and Technology (SMACT) degree. The program focuses on researched-based artistic practice, advanced visual studies, and experimentation, and offers opportunities for transdisciplinary relationships with other programs and labs at MIT. The degree culminates in a final project and written thesis.

Open Houses

ACT hosted two virtual open houses in the fall. One was held in the morning and the other in the evening, making it available to prospective students in different time zones. The event was recorded and made available upon request to anyone who was unable to attend. Between the two open houses ACT had 60 participants.

Applicants/Admissions

ACT received 99 applications. 6 applicants were accepted to the graduate program, and 2 applicants were waitlisted. Five of the accepted students are scheduled to join ACT in

the fall as the Class of 2025 with one deferring until next year. Summarized below are ACT's application and admissions statistics for the last six years:

ACT Admissions, AY2019–2023

Class Entering September	Applicants	Acceptances	Waitlist	Declines	Matriculants	Deferrals
2023	99	5	2	0	6	1
2022	95	4	1	1	4	0
2021	92	8	8	0	9**	0
2020	67	8	4	5	4	2
2019	81	7	3	5	5	0
2018	81	8	5	2	6	0

** One of the two students who deferred in 2020 matriculated as part of the Class of 2023.

Class of 2023

The Covid-19 pandemic led to the delayed matriculation of two students in December 2022. Nine additional students graduated May 2023. This was the largest graduating class in ACT's history.

Academic Curriculum and Enrollment

ACT offered 23 classes, two of which were new subjects:

- 4.s32 Future Heritage Workshop: Toxic Textiles/Fashion Fables
- 4.s33 Attention Economies

ACT offers electives for undergraduate and graduate students. The table below summarizes enrollment and the distribution of classes between graduates and undergraduates as well as architecture and non-architecture students from 2018 to 2022:

ACT Enrollment, AY2018-2023

Academic Year	# Enrolled	# Classes	% Grad	% Under	% Arch	% Other
2023	205	23	56	44	40	60
2022	221	22	58	42	49	51
2021	222	29	56	44	50	50
2020	209	23	49	51	45	55
2019	226	24	58	42	48	52
2018	210	21	46	54	39	61

Public Programs

- [Arts on the Radar 2022](#)
September 9, 2022
An evening of art exhibitions, studio visits, tours, food, and a dance party, collaboratively presented by the Art, Culture and Technology Program, Arts at MIT, Department of Architecture, List Visual Arts Center, Media Lab, and Morningside Academy for Design.

- [Lundahl & Seidl | A Language of What May Not Be Said](#)
September 19-20, 2022
The artist duo Lundahl & Seidl offered a studio showing of two works at ACT: *Symphony of a Missing Room* (2009 – ongoing), and *The Memoir* (2019 – 2022).
- [Ekow Eshun | In the Black Fantastic](#)
September 21, 2022
A co-hosted event between ACT and the MIT Press Bookstore to discuss Ekow Eshun's *In the Black Fantastic*, with Kelli Morgan and Christie Neptune (SMACT '23) as respondents.
- [Cooking Sections | When \[Salmon Salmon \[Salmon\]\]](#)
October 17, 2022
In this performative-lecture Cooking Sections reflected on their expansive body of work on the environmental impact of salmon farms.
- [Ute Meta Bauer | Saying It Without Saying. Can a Biennale Be a Newspaper?: On the Process of Creating the 17th Istanbul Biennial](#)
November 7, 2022
A lecture by Ute Meta Bauer, former ACT professor, about curating the 17th Istanbul Biennial.
- [Symbionts and What is Life? | Dual Book Launch and Discussion with Caroline A. Jones, Stefan Helmreich, and Sophia Roosth](#)
February 16, 2023
Following the Symbionts exhibition walk-through at MIT List Visual Arts Center, ACT hosted a dual book launch and discussion event in the ACT Cube with Caroline A. Jones, Stefan Helmreich, and Sophia Roosth.
- [Free Rain](#)
February 17, 2023
Public viewing of *Free Rain*, an exhibit by Luca Senise (SMACT '23), created as a suggestion for an alternative water infrastructure in the form of a decentralized network of self-contained rainwater catchment, filtration, and dispensing devices.
- [Malkit Shoshan | Design Activism: Border Ecologies and the Architecture of UN Missions](#)
March 2, 2023
Malkit Shoshan is the founding director of the Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory (FAST), which initiates and develops projects at the intersection of architecture, urban planning, and human rights. Huma Gupta (AKPIA), Bish Sanyal (DUSP) and Gediminas Urbonas (ACT) joined the conversation as respondents.
- [The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales | Film Screening and Discussion with Abigail E. Disney and Kathleen Hughes](#)
March 6, 2023
A screening of Abigail Disney's documentary *The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales*, followed by Q&A with co-directors Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen Hughes, and former Disney cast member Artemis Bell, moderated by the Dean of SA+P, Hashim A. Sarkis.

- [*The Art of Un-War | Film Screening and Discussion with Maria Niro and Krzysztof Wodiczko*](#)
March 20, 2023
Maria Niro's award-winning documentary *The Art of Un-War* was screened in Bartos Theater. This event, hosted by ACT Professor Gediminas Urbonas, featured a discussion between director Maria Niro and ACT Professor Emeritus Krzysztof Wodiczko, and respondents Natalie Bell (MIT List), and Hector R. Membreno-Canales (ACT).
- [*Poetics of Inquiry: How to Stay with Trouble*](#)
March 24, 2023
Public viewing of *Poetics of Inquiry: How to Stay with Trouble*, a behavioral-based solo exhibition by artist Ishraki Kazi (SMACT '23).
- [*Jae Rhim Lee | What It's Really About*](#)
April 20, 2023
Jae Rhim Lee (SMVisS '06) discussed complete as well as works in progress. The event featured Aubrie James (SMACT '24) as the respondent, and Morningside Academy for Design curator-director Roi Salgueiro Barrio as the moderator.
- [*2023 Max Wasserman Forum: Altered Access | Contemporary Art Forum*](#)
April 21-23, 2023
The 2023 Max Wasserman Forum: Altered Access, organized by the List Visual Arts Center and co-hosted by ACT, brought together artists, educators, and curators to discuss current disability discourse within the arts and museum institutions.
- [*Frances Negrón-Muntaner | Valor y Cambio: Decolonizing Money in Puerto Rico*](#)
April 24, 2023
Prof. Frances Negrón-Muntaner (Columbia University) discussed the origins, impact, and future of the award-winning activist project *Valor y Cambio* (*Value/Valour and Change*).
- [*Forensic Artifacts of a Democracy in Crisis*](#)
May 19, 2023
Public viewing of *Forensic Artifacts from a Democracy in Crisis* is an excavation into this emergent reality by Mrinalini Singha (SMACT '24).

Finance and Administration

ACT has a fiduciary responsibility for the administration of \$30,000 on behalf of the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT).

For the sixth year, ACT administered a portion of the funds that the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT) provides for student projects. To help capitalize on the use of the new ACT Student Art Gallery space, ACT repurposed the CAMIT grant funds in the fall to encourage students to use this new space to experiment and showcase their work during the remainder of the fall and spring semesters. All but one of the ACT graduate students participated. In FY2023, ACT administered \$15,000 in CAMIT funding. The CAMIT funds were matched by \$4,500 in grant funding from ACT.

During the 2023 fiscal year, the Art, Culture, and Technology (ACT) program at MIT used the remaining allocation of \$15,000 from Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT) to produce its Monday Night Lecture Series.

Communications

ACT Email Communications Performance vs Industry Benchmarks

	Open Rate	Click Rate
ACT (52 emails)	37.51%	2.28%
Overall	21.3	2.6
Arts and Artists	26.3	2.9
Education	23.4	2.9
Entertainment & Events	20.5	2.4
Non-Profit	25.2	2.8

*Source: Mailchimp, "Email Marketing Benchmarks and Statistics by Industry." October 2019, mailchimp.com/resources/email-marketing-benchmarks/. Accessed July 29, 2021.

Social Media

This year ACT drew significant growth in its Facebook and Instagram following. Its Twitter following declined at a smaller rate than expected given the decline of that platform.

ACT Social Media Followers, AY2020–2023

	June 30, 2020	June 12, 2021	June 13, 2022	2023	% Growth FY22-FY23
Twitter	5,933	6,272	6,547	6,444	-1.57%
Facebook	6,079	6,725	6,850	6,978	1.86%
Instagram	3,593	4,280	5,066	5,700	12.51%

Personnel

Faculty

- Azra Akšamija, continued as ACT's Director
- Nida Sinnokrot, promoted to Associate Professor without tenure
- Judith Barry, Renée Green, and Gediminas Urbonas, taught in person both semesters

Lecturers

- Jesus "Chucho" Ocampo
- Lara Baladi, resigned as Lecturer summer 2023
- Hector Membreno-Canales, joined fall 2023 as Lecturer for Introduction to Photography

- Tobias Putrih
- Cassandra Guan (Mellon Post-doc Fellow)

Staff

- Scott Tirrell (Director of Administration and Finance), joined August 2022.
- Gearóid Dolan (Technical Instructor, Media)
- Graham Yeager (Technical Instructor, Shop)
- Marissa Friedman (Marketing and Communications Manager)
- Kevin McLellan (Financial Assistant)
- Charles Morris (Administrative Assistant)
- Claudine Monique (Academic Associate), joined September 2022
- Sofia Naranjo (Media Assistant), joined March 2023

Azra Akšamija

Director, Art, Culture, and Technology program at MIT

Associate Professor, Department of Architecture