



**FY24 Report to the President**

# MIT List Visual Arts Center

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

## ABOUT THE 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. The List Center presents 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 several art collections across campus including: MIT's Campus Lending Collection, which lends approximately 2,000 works of art to MIT faculty; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program, manage and conserve the Public Art Collection of more than 60 site-specific public artworks throughout the campus; and oversees the Student Lending Collection, which lends approximately 600 works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.

## FY24 HIGHLIGHTS

### New Entryway Welcome Center

Working with Boston-area firms, Moth Design and AW-ARCH, the List Center revitalized the entryway space between its main galleries, creating a welcoming seating and reading area. With wall vinyl that describes the List's mission and history, and books selected from the MIT Press Bookstore, the space was conceived as one that fosters connections across the arts and humanities, connects the exhibitions on view with varied fields, and samples the interests of List Center artists and curators.

### A Season of Collaborative List Projects

For the 2023-2024 season, the List Center showcased a special season of List Projects exhibitions that center artistic collaborations. Over the course of the fiscal year, three two-person presentations—featuring fields harrington and Nancy Valladares; Sophie Friedman-Pappas and TJ Shin; and Brittni Ann Harvey and Harry Gould Harvey IV—commemorated the 10th year of this signature series focused on introducing emerging artists. Each presentation paired artists who share a history of conversation and fostered their continued collaboration through a joint commission.



Exhibition view: *List Projects 29: Brittni Ann Harvey & Harry Gould Harvey IV*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, 2024.  
Photo: Dario Lasagni

## **FY24 Total Attendance**

The List Center welcomed 16,700 visitors into our galleries.

## **Bloomberg Connects**

In the first full year on the Bloomberg Connects app, the List Center had 380 users engage with the Digital Guide.

The Digital Guide was used in a variety of languages including: Spanish, English, Italian, French, German, Chinese (Simplified, Mandarin), Portuguese, Turkish, Dutch, Russian, Bengali, Korean, and Arabic, demonstrating the reach of the List Center's audiences.

The top three audio guides played were *Symbionts: Contemporary Artists and the Biosphere*, *Olafur Eliasson, Northwest Passage, 2018*, and *Carlos Reyes, 18*.

## **CURRENT GOALS**

### **Curatorial:**

- Utilize our three gallery spaces by presenting outstanding contemporary art exhibitions.
- Promote the MIT's art collection including: the Student Lending Art Collection, the Campus Loan Art Collection, and the Public Art Collection.
- Preserve, conserve, and re-site works from the permanent collection.
- Create an online presence for the Campus Loan Collection that highlights available works.

### **Programming:**

- Continue to engage and partner with the MIT community by working with professors on in-depth departmental collaborations.
- Prioritize MIT students as an audience, expand offerings and engagement opportunities, and continue development of the Graduate Student Talks and MIT Student Tour Guide Program.
- Expand audiences by hosting cross-disciplinary and collaborative public programs.

### **Administrative & Finance:**

- Rollout the new 2024–2029 strategic plan initiatives, which include ideation around celebrations that mark the List Center's 40th Anniversary in 2025 and ensure innovative practices within the museum field.
- Expand the Advisory Committee and improve long-range planning efforts.

- Join the Institute's efforts to combat hidden bias and discrimination and offer the List's expertise by serving on the provost's ad hoc committee while continuing anti-bias training for staff.
- Promote the List Center's website as a rich digital resource and archive of past exhibitions, ensuring that the List Center serves as a resource for tracking the careers of artists after they've exhibited at MIT.
- Increase media presence through innovative use of social media and digital marketing.
- Maintain steady staffing levels to enhance ability to present ambitious world-class programming.
- Continue to build a strong patron program through the Director's Circle membership and add a corporate membership program.
  - Leverage technology to better provide information about exhibitions, public programs, the Student Lending 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.

## EXHIBITIONS

### ***List Projects 27: fields harrington and Nancy Valladares***

Bakalar Gallery

July 20–October 29, 2023

### ***Student Lending Art Program Exhibition and Lottery***

Hayden and Reference Gallery

August 29–September 17, 2023

### ***Carlos Reyes: 18***

Reference Gallery

October 27, 2023–March 10, 2024

### ***List Projects 28: Sophie Friedman-Pappas and TJ Shin***

Bakalar Gallery

November 16, 2023–February 11, 2024

### ***List Projects 29: Brittni Ann Harvey and Harry Gould Harvey IV***

Bakalar Gallery

March 7–June 23, 2024

*Basel Abbas and Ruanne About-Rahme: Only sounds that tremble through us*  
Hayden Gallery  
April 4–July 28, 2024

*Hana Miletić: Soft Services*  
Reference Gallery  
April 4–August 4, 2024



Exhibition view: *Basel Abbas and Ruanne About-Rahme: Only sounds that tremble through us*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, 2024. Photo: Dario Lasagni

### List Artists in the News / Recent Accomplishments

Given that the List Center typically works with artists at the beginning of their careers, the List is always interested in tracking the work of artists who have been exhibited in the galleries as they continue to present their work around the world.

- Past exhibiting artist Thea Djordjadze, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2015, debuted a new body of work at Wiels, Brussels.

- Nairy Baghramian, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2013, showcased a commissioned series of sculptures titled 'Scratching the Back' over the front façade of the Metropolitan Museum, New York.
- Leslie Thornton, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2021, had a solo project show at MoMA with a work that was commissioned by the List.
- Alison Nguyen presented the world premier cinema cut of "history as hypnosis" at MoMA, it was then named one of the Best Short Films of 2023 by Film Comment.
- List Public Art Collection artist Jeffrey Gibson became the first Indigenous artist to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale.
- María Magdalena Campos-Pons, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 1999, won a 2023 MacArthur Fellowship.
- Gordon Hall, who exhibited a List Project in 2018, had a solo exhibition at Hua International Berlin.
- Amalia Pica, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2013, was included in the *Limits of Control* exhibition at MoMA.
- Kambui Olujimi, who exhibited a List Project in 2014, presented the world premier of *North of Never* as part of the North Star: Conversations on Boundlessness symposium at Lincoln Center, New York.
- Alicja Kwade exhibited at the Lehmbrock Museum, Germany.
- Anicka Yi, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2015, was included in a group exhibition, *Avant l'Orage Bourse de Commerce ("Before the Storm")*, at the Bourse de Commerce Pinault Collection in Paris, France.
- Adam Pendleton, who exhibited a List Project in 2018, had a solo exhibition at the Kemper Art Museum.
- Maya Lin designed an art piece integrated into the landscape on the east side of the site for the MIT Volpe Project.
- Andrew Norman Wilson, who exhibited a List Project in 2021, presented a selection of recent video works that focus on sound at MoMA.
- Kenneth Tam, who exhibited a List Project in 2017, had solo exhibitions at BAMPFA and Tufts University.
- Tala Madani, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2016, had a major solo exhibition at MoCA LA.

- Eva Kofátková, who had a solo exhibition at the List in 2015, represented the Czech Republic at the Venice Biennale.
- Azza El Siddique, Jes Fan, who have both exhibited at the List Center, and Emily Barker, who participated in our 2023 Max Wasserman Forum, received 2024 Wild Futures: Art, Culture, and Impact awards in Visual Arts and Film/Moving Image from Creative Capital.
- Sonia Almeida and Park McArthur were named 2024 Guggenheim Fellows.
- Joan Jonas opened a major, comprehensive, museum retrospective at MoMA. She received profiles in the New York Times and Frieze Magazine.



Graduate Student Talk: Soala Lolia Ajenka in *Carlos Reyes: 18*. Photo: Gwyneth Jackman

## PROGRAMS AND STUDENT OUTREACH

The List Center continues to explore engagement with local and global audiences, as outreach to MIT staff, students, and faculty remains central to the programmatic mission. Offering points of engagement for in-person and remote audiences with the full standards of accessibility that MIT and the List Center are committed to. The List Center continues to grow tour offerings for both the gallery exhibitions and the Public Art Collection. This past fiscal year was focused on growing student programs, and visibility for student engagement through some of these highlights.

## Independent Activities Period Programming

- The List presented a three-part film screening series with documentaries about artists who are included in MIT's Public Art Collection.
- Connected the MIT Community to the art on their campus.

## Exhibition Public Programs and Engagement

Below are some highlights that augment the continued participation in Exhibition and public art tours, Gallery and lecture programs, artist led - programming, back to school activities, MIT Independent Activities Period Graduate Student Talks, and undergraduate student guide program.

- 69 Tours offered serving 939 attendees
- 21 Public Programs serving 553 live attendees, and 394 Virtual Attendees
- 10 Videos produced: 4 artist interviews, 6 recorded programs

## CAMPUS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

### Connect at the List

The List Center launched a new program in February that invited Boston's dedicated graduate art students to come together and meet students from other art programs while learning more about our exhibitions and highlighting community, placemaking, and professional development. The event featured a Graduate Student Talk with Maria Gabriela Carucci on *List Projects 28: Sophie Friedman-Pappas and TJ Shin* and a special tour of the sculptures in *Carlos Reyes: 18*. Afterwards, students met new colleagues over provided food and beverages, alongside the chance to win raffle prizes. This program was organized in consultation with MIT Art, Culture and Technology students.

### Promesa Game Night

In February, the List Center hosted a unique public program in partnership with the MIT Game Lab: Promesa Game Night with Mikael Jakobsson. In this program, MIT students along with the public were able to play a guided session of Promesa, a soon to be released board game created by Mikael Jakobsson and Rosa Colón Guerra with the help of a 2020-2022 MIT CAST Visiting Artist Grant. The game was played amongst the works in *Carlos Reyes: 18*, giving the participants a unique chance to see real-time effects of the PROMESA law on Puerto Rico's energy grid, while maneuvering different investments in Jakobsson and Colón Guerra's game. Carlos Reyes' "PROMESA" is made up of a series of interconnected lamps that flicker when power outages occur in real-time throughout the regions of Puerto Rico, which directly correlates to the board game's themes of challenging narratives of colonialism and foregrounding Puerto Rican voices and lived experiences.

## Vera List Prize

The *2023 Max Wasserman Forum: Altered Access* brought together artists, educators, Each year, the List Visual Arts Center participates in MIT's Karmel Writing Prize. This year, List staff members Emily Garner and Chris Hoodlet juried the 2024 Vera List Prize, for which students submitted essays focused on the visual arts. With a strong group of submissions, the List Center published the essays on their website to share them with a wider audience.

Sophia Chen, who just received her degree with a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Design, won the first place prize for her poetic essay, "Black Cobwebs" that explores her family lineage through her art practice. The second prize winner, Kartik Chandra, is a PhD candidate studying Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. Kartik wrote about the List's Student Lending Art Program in his essay "A Strange Thing Happens when You Live With A Work of Art."

## Student Stories

For the past 6 years, the List Center has interviewed students who have had the opportunity to hang artworks from the Student Lending Art Program in their living space. This year, List staff members, Cassidy Westjohn and Gwyneth Jackman, embarked on this project interviewing five students from varying backgrounds and degrees to hear directly from MIT students how this program impacts them. There is a wide breadth of stories featured from a student initially hating their artwork to another falling in love with the work while installing it himself. One interview hears from Carmelo Ignaccolo and Elena Militello, loyal participants in the program, who tell the story of how they made a pit stop while in labor with their first child to pick up a Marc Chagall print from the gallery.

## Artist-Led Programs

This past fiscal year the List Center worked with artists to create durational experiences with a focus on using expanded practices of contemporary art as a means to understand, give voice to, and process the world around us.

- In the summer of 2023, the List Center presented the third year of artist-designed programs that could be engaged with from anywhere in the world. With *Replenish*, the List presented five artist-designed sound experiences that encourage listeners to take a break and take a breath. The *Replenish* series featured: Jules Gimbrone, Victoria Shen, Darrin Martin, Lia Chavez, and Naama Tsabar.

## Lavine Lecture: CYBERFEMINISM INDEX Performative Book Reading and Discussion

For the 2023 Lavine Lecture, the List Visual Arts Center hosted the launch of designer and editor Mindy Seu's *CYBERFEMINISM INDEX*. In *CYBERFEMINISM INDEX*, hackers, scholars, artists, and activists of all regions, races and sexual orientations consider how humans might reconstruct themselves by way of technology by exploring internet history and how it is shaped by its inhabitants and their use. Speakers Mindy Seu and Kendra Albert presented in partnership with Cambridge Science Festival and the MIT Press Bookstore.



Connect at the List: Installation view of *List Projects 28: Sophie Friedman-Pappas and TJ Shin*. Photo: Gwyneth Jackman

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

This past year, the List Visual Arts Center continued to Prioritize and envelope DEI practices within exhibitions, programs, and digital engagement Audio Transcripts, Audio Tours, and Alt-Text continue to be embedded in the List's practices, while centering universal design within the exhibitions.

Presenting *Blue Description Project (BDP)* allowed the List Center to build on ideas and audiences developed through the 2023 Wasserman Forum: Altered Access. BDP is an audio description and captioning project—produced by Crip\*—Cripistemology and the Arts in collaboration with Voices in the Gallery— that engages Derek Jarman's *Blue* (1993) via expanded and critical accessibility.

## PERMANENT COLLECTION

The collection includes Public Art, the Student Lending Art Collection, and the Campus Loan Art Program.

### Ongoing and Future Percent-for-Art Projects

This year the List Center presented a new commissioned piece by Spencer Finch, *Bring me the sunset in a cup*, installed in the main stairwell landing at the new Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computer (SCC) building (45). This was commemorated with a talk by Spencer Finch along with a reception in the SCC building.

The List Center also unveiled the commissioned installation by Julian Charrière titled *Everything Was Forever Until It Was No More* at the Tina and Hamid Moghadam Building (55) for the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS). Charrière's three bodies of work that comprise this installation can be found outside in the courtyard as well as inside the lobby.

Commissions for the new Music Building (an outdoor sculpture by Sanford Biggers) and the renovations at the Metropolitan Warehouse will be installed in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

### Campus Loan Art Program

The List Center installed dozens of artworks for faculty and staff participating in the campus loan art program and moved additional pieces this year to accommodate office relocations or renovation projects. Currently there are 1,799 artworks sited in various locations on MIT's campus.



Installation view, 2023 Student Lending Art Program Exhibition. Photo by Gwyneth Jackman

### Student Lending Art Program Collection

The 2023-2024 Student Lending Art Program featured 550 artworks in the exhibition. The List continued to offer undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to sign-up remotely as an effort to improve accessibility.

The List Center added 12 artworks to the Student Lending Art Collection this year with support from the Friends of Boston Art, Sara-Ann and Robert Sanders, Karen and Greg Arenson, the John Taylor Endowment, the Alan May Endowment, the List Visual Arts Center Advisory Committee, and gifts of art.

## Public Art Collection Works Conserved

Cai-Guo Qiang, (*Ring Stone*, 2010, granite and seven Japanese Black Pine trees): annual maintenance, Bartlett Tree Experts, monthly pest treatments; Hanselman Landscape & Gardens, annual pruning (November 2023)

Anish Kapoor, (*Non-Object (Plane)*, 2010, stainless steel): Karen Wolff, bi-monthly annual maintenance

Robert Engman, (*Untitled*, 1968, painted aluminum): Karen Wolff, bi-monthly annual maintenance

Beverly Pepper, (*Trinity (Formerly Dunes I)*, 1971, Cor-ten steel): Daedalus, annual maintenance (June 2024)

Olafur Eliasson, (*Northwest Passage*, 2018, stainless steel, LED lights, diffusers): semi-annual maintenance, Front Line, Inc., October 2023 and May 2024

Jean Robert Ipoustéguy, (*Cénotaphe*, 1957, steel): Daedalus, June 2024

Lyman Kipp, (*Auro*, 1965, bronze): Daedalus, June 2024

Agnieszka Kurant, (*The End of Signature*, 2021, neon): Let There Be Neon, July 2023 and October 2023

Frank Stella, (*Heads or Tails*, 1988, acrylic and enamel): annual maintenance, Williamstown Conservation Center, January 2024

Frank Stella, (*Loohooloo*, 1994, room-size installation, acrylic): annual maintenance, Williamstown Conservation Center, January 2024

Scott Burton (*Settee, Bench, and Balustrade*, 1985, concrete and painted steel): Daedalus, February 2024

Nick Mauss (*Dispersed Events*, 2018, Majolica (Tin-glazed earthenware) murals): Conservation of tile grout, Simons Construction, February 2024

J. Meejin Yoon (Sean Collier Memorial, 2015, Granite): annual efflorescence cleaning, Stuart Dean, April 2024; Oil splatter cleaning, Daedalus, April 2024

David Bakalar, (*TV Man or Five-Piece Cube with Strange Hole*, 1993, Mountain rose granite): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Henry Moore, (*Three-Piece Reclining Figure, Draped*, 1976 bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Henry Moore, (*Working Model for Reclining Figure (Lincoln Center)*, 1963, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Jacques Lipchitz, (*Bather*, 1923-25, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Jacques Lipchitz, (*Hagar in the Desert*, 1957, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Jacques Lipchitz, (*Sacrifice III*, 1949-1957, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Jacques Lipchitz, (*Birth of the Muses*, 1944-1950, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Ursula von Rydingsvard (*Scientia*, 2016, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Pablo Picasso (*Figure Découpée (Cut-Out Figure)*, 1975, cast concrete with aggregate interior): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Dimitri Hadzi, (*Elmo-MIT*, 1963, bronze): annual maintenance, Daedalus, June 2024

Lyman Kipp, (*Auro*, 1965, bronze): Daedalus, July 2022, June 2024

### Permanent Collection Works Conserved

John McNamara (*Ouroboros*, 1981, Oil on Canvas): treated and moved painting out of E51-109, Maquette (Shipper) and Louise Orsini (Conservator), June 2024

Bill Thompson (*Oxbow*, 1995, Pumice in a polymer gel and acrylic paint on four birch plywood panels): Conserved and move painting from 68-181 to lower level, June 2024

## MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

The List Center had continued success in growing all social media platforms and now have over 22,500 followers on Instagram, 17,000 on Facebook, and 7,500 on Twitter. The List successfully grew global audiences by promoting both in-person and remote events.

List Center exhibitions and artists received press in the following outlets: *New York Times*, *BOMB*, *Artdaily*, *Boston Art Review*, *Wonderland*, *GameScene*, and *WBUR*.

The List Center produced media content including artist interviews and artist talks with Carlos Reyes, Sophie Friedman-Pappas, TJ Shin, Spencer Finch, and Hana Miletic. The List continues to record Graduate Student Talks and now has fourteen recorded talks in the video gallery.

The List maintains distribution of the newly redesigned Public Art Map to the MIT Visitor Center, Human Resources, MIT Admissions, Atlas Center, MIT Office of the Arts, and other sites on campus to promote and publicize MIT's Public Art and Architecture Collection.

## ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

### Staffing

This year, the List Center made several key new hires to round out the team:

- Cassidy Westjohn joined the staff as the public programs coordinator in July 2023, after receiving her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.
- Zach Ngin joined the staff as the curatorial assistant in August 2023. Previously, Zach was a curatorial fellow at the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University.
- Chris Hoodlet joined the staff in February 2024 as the communications manager. Previously, he worked at Harvard Art Museums in development and at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston in membership.
- Maria Lostumbo joined in March 2024 as the permanent collection registrar. Maria joins the list from Gladstone Gallery and has held positions at James Fuentes LLC, Pace Gallery, and the New Museum.
- Kristen Wawruck joined the staff in May 2024 as the assistant director. Prior to her role at the List, she held leadership and managerial positions at the Swiss Institute, the New Museum, and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.

### Personnel Information

Director Paul Ha serves as the board chair for the The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Art, New York, NY. He also served as an advisory committee member for the Madison Square Park Conservancy, and as an advisory board member for The Fabric Workshop and Museum. Additionally, he served as a committee member of the MIT Creative Arts Council, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Arts, Culture and DEI at MIT. He was a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and a juror for The Emily Harvey Foundation and the Vilcek Foundation.

Curator Natalie Bell contributed artist essays to MIT's Percent-for-Art commission for Julian Charriere, to forthcoming publications for Fondazione In Between Art and Film (Rome) as well as a curatorial essay to *Steina: Playback* (Cambridge: MIT Press). She was a juror for the Art Students League 2024 Grants & Scholarships Awards, a nominator for the 2024 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Program, a guest lecturer for New Curators, and a guest Thesis Exhibition critic for Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies. She is also a selection committee member for the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST), a working group member for MIT's DEI Arts and Culture Implementation Committee, and a program moderator for the forthcoming 2024 Contemporary Curators' Conference.

Campus and Public Program Manager Emily Garner served as a portfolio reviewer of student work at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design for the Art Education division.

Assistant Curator Selby Nimrod served as a visiting critic at the Yale University School of Art and as an External Advisor for SMFA Tufts MFA students. She was also a juror for Artadia's 2024 Award Cycle in Los Angeles.

### **Finances/Funding**

In FY24, the List Center raised \$387,000 from 55 donors and foundations. Moving forward, the List Center hopes to establish new donor prospects through continued engagement from MIT alumni via membership offerings. There is untapped potential from the Student Lending Art Program participants after they graduate, and the List hopes to track and identify those who continue to participate in programming.

In the fall the Idee German Schoenheimer Public Arts Fund was established with principal donations from four patrons to start the endowment. This fund will help with the rising conservation costs of the Public Art Collection, a vital and important part of the MIT campus. So far, we have secured \$133,000 toward this newly created fund.

### **Advisory Committee**

The List Center Advisory Committee—composed of MIT alumni, artists, and collectors—met twice during the 2023–2024 season. Currently, there are 23 active members including three ex-officio members: Philip S. Khoury, Paul C. Ha, and Leila W. Kinney.

Audrey Foster took on her new appointment as Advisory Committee Chair in the spring of 2021 and continues to serve as an exemplary leader.

In FY25, the List Center expects six members to roll off due to term limits and is actively seeking new members.

Paul C. Ha

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul C. Ha', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Director, List Visual Arts Center  
List Visual Arts Center Report to the President