Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Student Lending Art Exhibition & Lottery?
Full-time MIT graduate and undergraduate students may register to borrow a framed artwork from the List Center’s Student Lending Art Collection, which consists of over 600 works on paper in various media, to hang in their room or office space during the 2019-2020 academic year.

How do I borrow an artwork?
Come to the List Visual Arts Center in Building E15 to view an exhibition of the works available to borrow and enter the lottery. Submit your top five selections using the computer kiosks at the gallery reception desk. Gallery Attendants will be available to help you.

To enter the lottery, you will need:
- Kerberos username and password, confirmed via DUO (make sure you have your cell phone)
- Name, MIT ID number, and contact information.
- Selected artworks: artist, title, and artwork accession number (the accession number is a unique identifying number that is assigned to each artwork in the collection).
- You may enter the lottery from September 3 – 15, 2019.

Can I enter more than once?
No. Only one entry per person.

How do I know if I’ve been selected to borrow and artwork?
After the lottery runs on Monday, September 16, all participating students will receive an email notifying them if they are a recipient, alternate, or neither. Recipients will be assigned one of their five choices and emailed a loan agreement. You must print two copies of the loan agreement and bring those with you when you come to the List Center to pick up your artwork.
Do you have an alternates list?
Yes! A limited number of students who did not get one of their selections during the lottery process will be selected as "alternates"; those students will be able to come to the gallery from 12 – 8 PM on September 17, 18, or 19 to select from the artworks that were not awarded during the lottery process.

If I am not selected from the lottery or on the alternate list, am I completely out of luck?
No, you still have a chance to borrow an artwork! All unclaimed artworks will be available to students who have not yet signed out an artwork on a first-come, first-served basis. Students who did not receive an artwork may come to the List Center from 12–3 PM on Friday, September 20 to select from the unclaimed works. Come early on September 20 for the best selection.

If I am selected to receive an artwork but don't pick it up on time, what happens?
It will go to someone else. If you were selected to receive an artwork and did not collect it by 8 PM on Thursday, September 19, that artwork will be made available to other students during the Last Call on Friday, September 20.

When do I pick up my artwork if I've won?
Artwork can be picked up in the List Center gallery from 12–8 PM on Tuesday, September 17; Wednesday, September 18; or Thursday, September 19, weather permitting. Remember, unclaimed artworks will be offered to other students on Friday, September 20.

Can my spouse, partner, family member or friend pick up my artwork for me?
No, only the student who was selected in the Lottery may pick up their artwork.

Do I have to leave a deposit or sign anything if I borrow artwork?
A deposit is not required. You will sign a loan agreement stating that you will return the artwork at the end of the academic year, that you will take certain precautions in handling it, and that you are financially responsible for the artwork. And remember, you will be required to show your MIT Student ID at the time you pick up your artwork.

What if I need to return my artwork early?
Please contact registrars Ariana Webber, amwebber@mit.edu and Lisa DeLong, lmdelong@mit.edu to schedule a time to return your artwork if you are graduating early or will not be in Boston in May 2020. If you plan to study abroad, we strongly encourage you to return your artwork early to avoid late return fees.

When is the return period?
All artworks must be returned to the List Center during May 4-May 10, 2020. Please note this will be the only return period. Any students who do not return by May 10 will incur a daily late fee of $15.

Why is a print an original artwork?
Prints are editioned works created by an artist from a plate or negative that allows the creation of a number of “like” pieces. Prints are issued in limited editions by a print house whose staff has worked closely with an artist so that the artist’s vision is correctly interpreted through a particular print medium, with which an artist may or may not have a lot of familiarity (even with photography, an artist may not be involved in actually printing a work). Print editions differ from posters in that they are the artwork, not simply a picture or reproduction of another artwork such as a painting. The creation of a print edition is a time-consuming collaboration between an artist and a print house.