

## MIT List Visual Arts Center

### James Sanborn

**MEDIUM** Sculpture

**NATIONALITY** American

**LIFE DATES** Washington, D.C. 1945 -

Jim Sanborn is a contemporary sculptor known for inscrutable work that evokes the invisible forces of the natural world. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1945, Sanborn grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, with artistic and scholarly parents. He studied archaeology and Romanesque architecture at Oxford University, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in paleontology, fine arts, and social anthropology in 1968 from Randolph-Macon College and a Master of Fine Arts in sculpture from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, in 1971. Sanborn taught at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, and was the teacher and artist-in-residence at Glen Echo Park for nine years.

Solo exhibitions of his work have been mounted at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Orlando Museum of Art, Florida. He has participated in group exhibitions at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Neuberger Museum, Purchase, New York; the Gwangju Biennale, Korea; and the Phillips Collection and the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.

He is best known for commissioned sculptures for public spaces, most significantly, *Kryptos* (1990) created for the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia, which incorporates coded text yet to be deciphered. Sanborn lives and works in Washington, D.C.

