

# MIT List Center

## Martin Boyce

I'm Martin Boyce. When I was presented with this project at MIT, one of the things I was interested in was the nature of research itself and how on a very simplistic level it's really about recognition of patterns or deterioration of patterns.

Boyce's Through Layers and Leaves (Closer and Closer) from 2011 was commissioned with MIT Percent-for-Art funds for the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT. Boyce developed the patterns that comprise this work from an image of abstract trees made in 1925 for the Paris international exposition of modern industrial and decorative arts.

I started to reduce the original trees down to a core number of shapes and forms and from that I developed a repeat pattern.

Here, the pattern manifests itself in colored geometric shapes and in the steel framework that supports them.

What I did in this case was to remove some of the lines so that the pattern was either in a state of being broken down or in a state of repair or becoming complete. And I guess that was also in a sense a metaphor for the process that goes on in the building.

Boyce's deliberate choice of materials borrows heavily from the language of urban architecture.

I always had the feeling of a fence or a screen so I wanted the material to have an appearance that looks like it could have been brought into the building from outside.

Along the bottom of the wall, you'll see three brass ventilation grills. To hear more about the grills, press 9560 and press pound.