

# MIT List Visual Arts Center Year in Review

July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017

From all of us at the MIT List Visual Arts Center, thank you! We look forward to welcoming you in our galleries in 2017!



## Director's Letter

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Dear Friends,

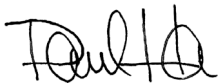
As 2017 draws to a close, I would like to personally thank you for your support, attention, and participation at the MIT List Visual Arts Center. As MIT strives to make the world a better place, the List Center supports that mission by creating a space for artists to push their artistic development to new levels and providing a home for students to experience new ways of looking at art. At the List Visual Arts Center, we follow MIT's mandate for excellence by exhibiting the most cutting edge contemporary art of our time. We typically give an artist their first museum show or reintroduce an artist to an American audience, bringing their work newly into focus.

Through the work on view in the galleries, and ambitious programs designed to complement each exhibition, we strive to insert art into our community. We know that art illuminates ideas in new and exciting ways both for the artist and the viewer. Looking back, I am still excited about ideas we examined last year: affect and intimacy in contemporary art, autism, interpersonal power dynamics in male relationships, re-telling of historical moments, perception, memory, modernism, and civil disobedience. The past year has been a stark reminder of the importance of art and supporting artists. As we are consumed by newsfeeds from Washington and beyond, it has been a privilege to lead a museum that fosters cooperation, caring, and creative thought.

While the List Center is a museum, we also take advantage of our unique capacity to act as an alternative space. Remaining nimble allows us to react quickly to current issues. While walking in the 2017 Women's March, for example, our curators had an idea for an exhibition based on the myriad responses to the 2016 presidential election, and in July, *List Projects: Civil Disobedience* opened. The exhibition presented documentaries, news footage, citizen journalism, and artist's films that focused on moments of political resistance and public demonstration from the early 20th century through today. *List Projects: Civil Disobedience* was a forum for students and the public to revisit historical moments while contemplating the future.

The Student Loan Art Program is another way the List Center stands apart from other museums. Every September over 600 students win a piece of art from the collection to live with for a year. The art leaves the safe confines of the museum's walls and is carried home by students all across campus to their living spaces. While registrars may worry about the art's safety, we feel that a few scratched frames are worth the message the List Center is sending to our students: Everyone deserves to live with and to experience art, and we hope that it inspires them daily.

Thank you for all that you have made possible this year. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to a 2018 filled with new art, ideas, and inspiration. We will continue to present creative ideas that explore the art and challenges of our time.



Paul Ha  
Director, MIT List Visual Arts Center



## Exhibitions

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In FY18 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017) the List Center presented seven exhibitions inside our galleries.



*LIST PROJECTS: ETHAN HAYES-CHUTE*  
July 19, 2016 - October 16, 2016



*EDGAR ARCENEUX: WRITTEN IN SMOKE AND FIRE*  
October 14, 2016 - January 8, 2017



*LIST PROJECTS: ANDREA CRESPO*  
January 10, 2017 - February 19, 2017



*CHARLOTTE MOTH: SEEING WHILE MOVING*  
February 17, 2017 - April 16, 2017



*GWENNETH BOELEN: AT ODDS*  
February 17, 2017 - April 16, 2017



*LIST PROJECTS: KENNETH TAM*  
April 18, 2017 - May 21, 2017



*AN INVENTORY OF SHIMMERS: OBJECTS OF INTIMACY IN CONTEMPORARY ART*  
On view from May 19, 2017 - July 16, 2017

## Student Lending Art Program

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### New Acquisitions

The Student Loan Art Program exhibition features well over 600 works of art, including original works, editioned prints, and photographs. All MIT undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to participate in the lottery to borrow an artwork from the Student Loan Art Collection for the academic year.

A unique and popular MIT tradition, students have been borrowing artwork from the Student Loan Art Collection for their private rooms and communal spaces since 1969, and since 1977 the collection has been exhibited annually every September at the List Center.

We are particularly grateful to Alan May and John Taylor for endowing funds that enable the List Center to add new works to this collection annually.

### Students Living with Art

Beyond allowing students to borrow artwork, the Student Loan Art Program engenders a set of values centered on generosity. These values are demonstrated through the Institute's support for the program and the generous gifts and purchases of art for the collection. This year, visitors to the exhibition explored generosity further in *Community Legacy* (2017), a special project organized by Boston-based artist Elisa H. Hamilton. The interactive project invited visitors to think about their own personal legacies in relation to what defines their sense of "community."





## Hear from Students

"Having real art is something that a lot of people identify as an 'adult thing,' and being a grad student, it's hard to feel sometimes like you are an adult, so it's really nice to come home and have a space that is decorated and have a piece like this that's important and impressive."

— RACHEL INSOF, SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT '18

"This piece has always made me think of the question 'are you a dog person or a cat person?' because it kind of has both of those elements. So that was a great way to sort of make friends, which I really like. It also just makes me smile."

— RACHEL INSOF, SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT '18

"I've always liked Frances's work... I think I first saw this piece in her show at the MFA that I reviewed. It was cool to see it in a museum then later take it home! I also got to do a studio visit with her and am actually writing a book chapter on her right now, so I get to work on it at my desk while her work hangs right next to it."

— EMILY WATLINGTON, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING '18

The artist Kiki Smith is from my neighborhood in New York. She works there and is somebody who I've admired for quite a while but definitely could not afford her pieces. So it was wonderful when I saw it hanging in the gallery. But before I saw it hanging in the List, I saw it hanging in a friend's house last year. So it's got a little lineage in my personal, sort of friend-family group here at MIT which is really nice."

— ADAM HOROWITZ, MIT MEDIA LAB '19

"I feel like it's calming, like, to look at. Just, I don't know, like the geometry. I like the circle and the diamond that's made by it, I like it. I feel like it has a calming feeling on me."

— SISAM BHANDARI, UNDERGRADUATE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE '21

## Programs

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Over 1,700 visitors participated in the range of public programming offered at the List Center. This fiscal year, programming shifted to focus on exhibition related programming highlighting a range of film screenings, in gallery discussions, artist led workshops, and lectures including Thinking Feeling: An Affect Symposium related to *Inventory of Shimmers*.

### Program Highlights



"It was an absolute delight to meet Kishonna Gray at the List Visual Arts Center, Kenneth Tam event. I thought [she] brought the whole event alive and made it accessible and interesting... I had never spoken at a public event before... It is a testament to the atmosphere you created."

— TONI TUGENBERG, ON THE NEW IN GALLERY DISCUSSION SERIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIST PROJECTS FACILITATED BY KISHONNA GRAY, MLK VISITING SCHOLAR

### Student Programs

This year, we continued the Graduate Student Talk series, providing a unique experience to connect research occurring in all corners of the Institute to the List Center's exhibitions.

We are thrilled to have launched a Student Tour Guide program through inviting four undergraduates to join the List Center team to lead tours of the exhibitions and public art collection enabling us to tour over 550 visitors.



"Being a student guide at the List gave me the opportunity to deepen my connection to art and share a beautiful part of MIT with others."

— JOSEPH FARAGUNA

"A lot of the tours were like group discussions, and I feel like I've collected a small repository of people's thoughts about art pieces; it's interesting that different pieces leave a wide range of impressions on viewers."

— CLAIRE TRAWEEK



# Thank You

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The MIT List Visual Arts Center advisory committee and staff extend deep thanks to these donors for their contributions during the fiscal year from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

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