

List Projects 33: Every Ocean Hughes
Bakalar Gallery
September 18 – December 14, 2025



Cambridge, MA, July 2025 – The MIT List Visual Arts Center is pleased to announce *List Projects 33: Every Ocean Hughes*, on view in the Bakalar Gallery September 18 - December 14, 2025. This focused exhibition features the poignant video installation *One Big Bag* (2021), by artist and writer Every Ocean Hughes, formerly known as Emily Roysdon. A meditation on the politics and poetics of death, the work is part of Hughes's larger trilogy exploring care, kinship, and the rituals surrounding dying.

In *One Big Bag*, a millennial death doula, portrayed by Lindsay Rico with choreography by Miguel Gutierrez, guides viewers through the contents of her mobile “corpse kit.” With compassion and clarity, she narrates the material, emotional, and ceremonial dimensions of her work, proposing alternative modes of mourning that eschew euphemism and familial convention in favor of community care and embodied understanding. The work resists the fear of death through practical intimacy, stating plainly: “Death has to be understood with the senses. The mind doesn’t get it.”

Hughes’s transdisciplinary practice spans performance, film, writing, and pedagogy, with recent solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Moderna Museet, and Studio Voltaire. Her work has been presented at major institutions including Tate Modern, MoMA, and Secession, and she is a past fellow of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the inaugural recipient of the 2024 Trellis Art Fund prize.

Organized by Chief Curator Natalie Bell and Curatorial Assistant Ramona Ngin, *List Projects 33* situates Hughes's practice within a larger conversation on life, death, and collective memory. This presentation continues the List's commitment to showcasing artists at pivotal moments in their careers through dynamic, timely exhibitions.

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LIST PROJECTS 33: EVERY OCEAN HUGHES

5 minute video excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/597177990>

September 18-December 14, 2025

The List Visual Arts Center, Bakalar Gallery

20 Ames Street, Bldg. E15-109

Atrium level

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

IMAGE CAPTIONS

Every Ocean Hughes, *One Big Bag*, 2021 (still). Video with sound; 40 min. Courtesy the artist.

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ABOUT EVERY OCEAN HUGHES

Every Ocean Hughes (b. 1977, lives and works in Stockholm and New York) is a transdisciplinary artist and writer. Her work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2023); Studio Voltaire, London (2022); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2022); Secession, Vienna (2015); and PARTICIPANT INC., New York (2015). Collaboration has been a central part of her practice: She was editor and cofounder of the queer feminist journal and artist collective LTTR, has written lyrics for several bands (The Knife, Colin Self, JD Samson & MEN), and has done costume design. Hughes's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Centre national des arts plastiques, Paris; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; and Kadist, Paris/San Francisco, among others. For over ten years, Hughes has taught art in Europe and the US and works as a coach for artists and creative producers as West Street Coaching.

ABOUT LIST PROJECTS

Started in 2013, List Projects is a series of focused exhibitions supporting emerging and underrepresented artists at pivotal points in their careers through responsive curatorial programming. This platform provides audiences with a first view of topical and thought-provoking work, amplified through programming that connects artistic content with academic scholarship, research, and experimentation in other fields at MIT. List Projects are presented three times a year in the compact Bakalar Gallery, an ideal space for exhibiting a singular concept, artwork, or installation. List Projects exhibitions allow for swift curatorial responses to developments in contemporary art, supporting emerging artists in their first

institutional exhibitions, established artists whose work is under-recognized or taking a critical change of direction, artists without gallery representation, and lesser-known artists working in film, video, or sound. Recent artists featured in *List Projects* include Gordon Hall, Mary Helena Clark, Andrew Norman Wilson, Alison Nguyen, Sharona Franklin, Cindy Ji Hye Kim, Azza El Siddique, and Harry Gould Harvey IV.

ABOUT MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

The List Visual Arts Center is a creative laboratory that provides artists with a space to freely experiment and push existing boundaries. As the contemporary art museum at MIT, the List Center presents a dynamic program of six to nine special exhibitions in its galleries annually, including a program of evolving site-specific work by emerging artists known as *List Projects* (now at "*List Projects 32*"), as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and scholarly publications. Beyond the full slate of special exhibitions and projects it presents each year, the List Center maintains and adds to MIT's Permanent Collection, a collection of more than fifty site-specific artworks throughout the campus; commissions new works through the MIT Percent-for-Art program; oversees the loan of artwork for the campus (in the President's House, labs, and administrative offices); and oversees the Student Loan Art Program, which lends approximately seven hundred works of art annually to MIT undergraduate and graduate students.