

The Dean's Gallery presents: Selections from the Permanent Collection

Selections from the Permanent Collection is drawn from the List Visual Arts Center's extensive Permanent Collection. Formally inaugurated in 1951, the MIT Permanent Collection began with a gift of 26 paintings and drawings from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Because MIT had no gallery space in which the work could be permanently displayed, a decision was made to exhibit the works throughout the campus. Today, the collection is comprised of more than 1,800 works, many of which are still displayed in this innovative and accessible way. In conjunction with the changing exhibits at the List Visual Art Center, the campus itself becomes a museum, expanding the realm of art into the everyday lives of MIT students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Among the works on display are works by Varda Chryssa and Alex Katz. These artists each have work in the Student Loan Art Collection, a program that gives students the opportunity to borrow prints and photographs each year. A Greek-born artist now working in the United States, Chryssa is best known for her abstract letter sculptures, neon light tubing, and mixed media works. Alex Katz (born 1927, New York) has produced works in many media, but is particularly acknowledged for his painting, sculpture, and prints. His bold, pop-esque images and elegant reductive figuration have influenced a generation of artists.

Marco Arce's work was included in the show *Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude* at the List Visual Arts Center in 2003. Born in 1968, Mexican-born Arce now works in New York, and is renowned for his intricate works and unabashed examination of the art world.

Jim Isermann, born in Wisconsin in 1955 and now living in Los Angeles, works in striking geometric patterns, often using tactile materials in his exploration of abstraction. His vibrant designs play with optical perception in dynamic, dizzying ways.

Selections highlights the MIT collection's emphasis on contemporary painting, sculpture, photography, and print media. Proper framing is crucial to the quality and longevity of many such works, and the List Visual Arts Center is grateful to the Dean's Office of the Sloan School of Management for helping to re-frame the pieces currently on display.

Artists on view:

Marco Arce, *Who's Afraid...* (2000)

Louisa Bloomstein, *Round Five* (1889)

James Cambronne, *Cronograph VI* (1996)

Varda Chryssa, *Study for Neon Box* (1995)

William Conlon, *Untitled* (1985)

Warrington Colescott, *Sardana* (Not Dated)

Jim Isermann, *Untitled (#9)* (1991-1992)

Alex Katz, *Lake Wesserunst 1* (1972)

Mark Luyten, *Untitled* (1987)

Raymond Parker, *Untitled* (1974)

Jorge Stever, *Untitled* (1973)

Maltby Sykes, *Floating Still Life* (Not Dated)

Robert Zakanitch, *Untitled* (1983)