The MIT Arts Scholars Program brings together students who are passionate about exploring the diverse array of arts available at MIT and in the Boston area, and interacting with fellow students, faculty artists and other experts in the art world.

arts.mit.edu

Calendar 2013 – 2014

August 14, annual trip to PEM on the Boston-Salem Ferry
September 11, Mandatory Meeting
October 4, Application Deadline
November 7, La Bayadère at Boston Ballet
November 11, Mass MoCa
November 13, New Applicant Selection Panel
November 17, Joshua Bell, BSO
December 19, Alan Evans Trio, Church
January 15, TBD
January 24, Annual Arts Scholars Art Share
February 6, Painting workshop with SCRAM, Brandeis’ student arts group
February 15-16, New York City Trip including Rusalka at MET Opera House, MET Museum of Art and a tour of a private Indian Miniature Gallery
March 7, Mike Stern Jam and Concert
March 20, Boston Ballet, Cinderella, Mr. McPhee Guest Expert
March 24, Application Deadline
April 15 or 17, New Applicant Selection Panel
April 10-13, CPW
May 21, Arts Scholars Annual BBQ

Created by Ruzan Kheranyan
2016
Calendar 2014 – 2015

August 15, Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) on the Boston-Salem Ferry
September 10, Mandatory Meeting
October 1, deadline for Fall applicants
October 3-5, The Hacking Arts
October 18, Lexington Symphony Orchestra
October 23, BSO, Bach and Brahms
November 17, Arts Scholars selection panel
November 20, Red Star Union panel
January 22, Opening for Copenhagen by Porpentine Players
February 4, Annual Arts Scholars Art Share
February 13-15, New York City Trip, Blue Beard and Iolanta at the MET Opera House, tour of a private Indian Miniature Gallery, MOMA
March 8, Lady of the Camellias at the Boston Ballet
March 27, Alvin Ailey at the Boston Opera House
June 3rd, Student Arts end-of-term BBQ

Carmen Castaños G

Carmen finished her undergraduate degree at MIT in civil engineering and architecture but came right back for grad school in mechanical engineering focusing on product design. Originally from Illinois, she has been able to travel lots and explore the architecture and structural design of the places she goes. In her spare time, she likes to read, go to museums and watch bad TV.

Elisa Young 2017

Elisa is an undergraduate studying Computer Science. She enjoys taking photos, frolicking through online art sites, reading poetry, eating curry, and thinking about the world. She’s on an adventure to find a happy intersection between Computer Science and art.
Rachel Osmundsen
2017

Rachel is an undergraduate student studying Materials Science and Engineering, with a minor in Energy Studies. After attending California College of the Arts for a summer, she realized that she would rather go to a tech school than an art school, but is so excited to have found a great arts community at MIT. Originally from Portland, OR, she loves exploring all the museums, theaters, and restaurants that Boston has to offer. She particularly enjoys oil painting and figure drawing. When she is not in classes or rowing on the Charles, Rachel bakes in every spare moment, with an emphasis on sourdough bread.

Carolyn Joseph G

Carolyn is a graduate student in Materials Science and Engineering. Joining the arts scholars as an undergraduate helped her realize that MIT is teeming with opportunities to make and appreciate art. She likes watercolor painting, decorating (and eating) sugar cookies, linocut printmaking, and singing (karaoke of course).

Activities

Calendar 2015 – 2016

September 1, Peabody Essex Museum
September 16 & 29, New Applicant Interviews
October 5, Mandatory meeting for all Arts Scholars
October 7, Keith Ellenbogen, *The Art of Underwater Photography*, Cosman Seminar Room 6C-442
November 4th, *teamLab at Radcliffe: What a Loving and Beautiful World*, hosted by Meg Rotzel
November 6th, *Einstein’s Dreams*, Central Square Theater
November 15th, Mahler 5 at Kresge, Professor Pollock plays the oboe
December 9, Lara Baladi, MIT Visiting Artist
February 12, BSO
February 24, Karim Ben Khelifa, dinner and talk
February 25, Alicia Eggert, Harvard Art and dinner
March TBD, Arts Scholars Arts Share
Matthew Arbesfeld 2017

Matt is an undergraduate studying Computer Science and Mathematics, with a focus in Computer Graphics. Watching *Monsters Inc.* as a kid in the back seat of his family’s Honda Odyssey inspired him to explore computer-generated art, and he has been modeling things in 3D ever since. In his spare time he likes to eat, cook or run along the Charles so that he can eat more.

Edwina Portocarrero PhD

Edwina Portocarrero is a PhD Candidate at MIT’s Media Lab. She designs hybrid physical/digital objects and systems for play, education and performance. She previously studied Design and Production with a focus on Lighting and Set design at Calarts. She has traveled extensively, lived in Brazil working at a documentary production house, as lighting designer in her native Mexico, hitchhiked her way to Nicaragua, lived in a Garifuna village in Honduras, documented the soccer scene in Rwanda and is currently trying to re-imagine the playgrounds of tomorrow as Networked Playscapes.

Elizabeth Bianchini 2018

Elizabeth, but you can call her Bibit, hails from the forests of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she was raised to love trees, hills, running, and just about any body of water. In her free time, she keeps busy building stuff, eating, and messing with people. She will admit that she is very attracted to power tools. When she gets old, she plans on shaving her head and buying a hundred acres where she’ll live in a tent until she finishes building her own house, probably in a tree.

Sam Rodriques G

Sam is a graduate student in physics, working in the Synthetic Neurobiology group at the MIT Media Lab on developing new experimental methods to study the brain. He has a long history with drama and musical theater, having directed 14 +/- 1 shows since high school. While he tries to unravel the mysteries of the brain, he is interested in figuring out how to use science and engineering to generate new kinds of sensory experiences, opening up new artistic modalities. In his spare time, he plays the board game Go, and is trying to teach himself Chinese.
Cynthia (Syn) Odu is a third year student in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. With interests primarily in urban art and design, they hope to better understand how art and beauty can influence new ways of being. Syn self-identifies as a cheating vegan, a closet existentialist, a lover of the natural world, and much, much more.

Known as "jmfessy" by many and her brass rat, Jane was born and raised in the Berkeley, California, which explains her frequent use of "hella" and "chill". Now a MechE, she first discovered her love of building in the garage of her 90 year old neighbor who would let her and all the neighborhood kids play with his power tools at an age much too young to be handling power tools. With her parents as photographers, grandfather as an architect, she was destined to love art, still continues to use it today. Jane also enjoys playing soccer for the MIT women's soccer team, traveling, and saving the environment one compostable item at a time.

Hailing from Berkeley, California, Johanna is no stranger to the arts scene. She went to an arts high school where art was integrated into every aspect of the classes and culture. There she was introduced to (and fell in love with) drawing, painting, sculpture, dance, printmaking, photography, film, and more. She aspires to apply her passions for art and design as a double major in Architecture and Urban Studies & Planning, as well as take advantage of all of the opportunities for art, music and cultural exposure in the city of Boston during her time at MIT.

Holly is a junior at MIT studying Comparative Media Studies. She is passionate about making art that is publicly accessible, current, and political. She is interested in the shape of the music industry, the social effects of the internet, and the way that our constant media constructs our globalized worlds.
Grace Li 2017

Grace is an undergraduate student studying Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Art, Culture, and Technology (ACT). Grace began taking art lessons at the age of five, starting off with a box of 100 colored markers and moving on to explore oil pastels, gouache, sketching, acrylic paint, oil paint, cut paper, and mixed media. Coming to MIT, she picked up some new forms of art—photography, video, ceramics, metal casting, and installation art. She enjoys being at the interface between art and engineering. In her spare time, Grace loves to hike, eat, read historical fiction novels, and build things.

Elizabeth Glista 2017

Elizabeth is an undergraduate studying mechanical engineering. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, she did ballet, tap, and modern dance for ten years before coming to MIT. At MIT, she joined the crew team and now only dances for recreation. Nevertheless, her appreciation for art has increased since coming to MIT due to the richness of Boston’s museums and cultural opportunities. She spends her free weekends attending pieces at the Boston Ballet and hiking in the White Mountains.

Emma Castaños 2017

Emma is an undergraduate studying Mechanical Engineering. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, she appreciates both U.S. coasts and the varied landscapes they offer. Emma enjoys traveling, hammocking, hiking, and climbing. She likes dressing up to go to the opera and dancing around her room alone. Emma became interested in photography in order to capture her adventures and companions.

William Yu G

William is an applied math PhD student in the Computation and Biology group at the MIT Computer Science and AI Lab. He majored in math, chemistry, and Germanic studies at Indiana University for undergrad and following that earned MRes and MPhil degrees from Imperial College London on Marshall Scholarship. William spends most of his free time either exploring movement, primarily dance and recreational gymnastics, or learning how to fail better at telling stories of all shapes, whether scientific journal article or short story.
Samantha Cohen G
Sam is finishing her second year of her Master of City Planning degree at MIT. She is interested in urban ecovillages, performance art, trickery and water.

Jiwon Park 2017
Jiwon hails from South Korea but grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A junior majoring in Chemistry, she is an avid classical music fan. She enjoys listening to Rachmaninoff piano concertos on repeat while studying. When not practicing piano, she can be found doing research on polymer materials and watching Korean rap contests.

Iris Fung 2017
Iris is an undergraduate studying Biology. She is an aspiring medical illustrator, and loves browsing beautiful illustration and design pieces in her free time. She is also wildly enthusiastic about food and can generally be found eating her way around Boston.

Neerja Aggarwal 2017
Neerja Aggarwal is an engineer, artist, and athlete. She studied electrical engineering and theatre arts in her undergrad at MIT. She is continuing at MIT for a masters in electrical engineering. Neerja is originally from Houston, TX and grew up with a passion in both science and theatre. She trained as a stage director at MIT, has directed two major stage productions so far: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Nov 2014) and *Now Then Again* (Nov 2015), and is currently working on her third production of *Einstein’s Dreams*. Neerja is interested in exploring the intersection of science and theatre. She has also competed on the MIT Women’s club ultimate frisbee team all through college.
CK (Chheangkea Ieng) 2017

CK was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and moved to Massachusetts when he was 11. Currently, he is an undergraduate in the Department of Architecture, which means he gets to art almost every day of his life and he loves it. Yes, he does use “art” as a verb. CK wants to use art as a bridge to connect the world. Yes, he realizes he just made an architecture metaphor. Most of the time, you will find him in his studio, taking pictures around Boston, modeling on his computer, getting bubble tea, dancing, making videos, sketching pictures of buildings, watching TV or playing tennis.

Marianna Sofman G

Marianna is currently a graduate student in the biomaterials/tissue engineering field, with interests in fabrication, regenerative medicine, and drug delivery.

Kimberly Toy G

Kim is a Master’s student studying computer science and hails from northern California. Her love of arts and crafts started with folding origami as a child and has expanded since then to include needle felting, making polymer clay miniatures, and sewing felt plushes. After coming to MIT, she has discovered the joys of wheel throwing and photography. She would love for other students to be able to discover their own favorite creative outlets too! Her one day dream is to open an Etsy shop and share her creations with the world.

Hane Lee 2017

Hane is an Electrical Engineering student minoring in music. She has lived with classical piano ever since she can remember, but she is increasingly spending more time plucking piano strings, reading pieces composed by friends, and listening to minimal music and bebop jazz. Hane also loves the visual arts (Vermeer! Cubists! Contemporary art museums!), literature, and often develops an impossible weak spot for performance art.
Pip Mothersill PhD

Pip Mothersill is a PhD student in the Object-Based Media group at the MIT Media Lab, where she explores the language of design, particularly how objects can communicate information to us through their form. Through research that connects design theory, synesthesia, and linguistics, she investigates computational processes for the design of static and dynamically expressive objects and explores how the design attributes of physical objects can become a more active medium for communication. Pip’s convoluted journey before coming to the Media Lab included a MEng in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Bristol, a joint MA/MSc degree in Industrial Design Engineering from the Royal College of Art and Imperial College, London, three years working as a product designer for Procter & Gamble, and lots of cooking, sewing, painting, theatre, ballet and art galleries.

David Rolnick PhD

Davie Rolnick is a PhD student in Applied Mathematics, also working in the Media Lab (Synthetic Neurobiology) and CSAIL (Computational Connectomics). His research involves training computers to understand the structure of the brain - a combination of machine learning, computational neuroscience, and discrete math. Davie finished his undergraduate studies at MIT in 2012 with a double major in Math and Music, and spent a year at the Free University of Berlin as a Fulbright Scholar. Outside research, Davie studies voice with Richard Conrad and performs with the Boston Cantata Singers, MIT Chamber Chorus, and other groups. Davie also enjoys running, writing, teaching, and wandering off into the woods to look at birds and insects.