



MIT Appoints Matthew Ritchie the Dasha Zhukova Distinguished Visiting Artist

The artist will research and develop new work in 2018-19 academic year

Cambridge, MA, September 12, 2018 — Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is pleased to announce visual artist [Matthew Ritchie](#) as the 2018-19 Dasha Zhukova Distinguished Visiting Artist at MIT. The appointment, hosted by the [MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology \(CAST\)](#) will begin this fall. Ritchie's time at MIT will be dedicated to the research and development of new work, shaped in collaboration with MIT faculty, students and researchers across the Institute, in fields ranging from nanotechnology, climate change and physics to music and the visual arts. Through painting, drawing, sculpture, sound and movement, Ritchie's work at MIT will explore questions of space and time, language and vision, the nature of diagrams and the limits of scientific inquiry. Ritchie's envisions collaborative works including a recycled glass reef, a nano-scale proto-language, and a multisite musical performance situated throughout the MIT campus, but his final project will be developed after a period of research. Ritchie was chosen by the CAST Executive Committee from a pool of more than 40 nominations by MIT faculty, arts leaders, and external curatorial advisers. In addition to Ritchie, CAST will support nearly 40 MIT faculty artists and Visiting Artists during the 2018-19 academic year.

[Launched in fall 2015](#) with a \$1 million donation from Dasha Zhukova, a Russian American philanthropist, entrepreneur, art collector and founder of Garage Museum for Contemporary Art in Moscow, the Dasha Zhukova Distinguished Visiting Artist residency program provides support for visual artists and designers to engage with the creative energy, innovative thinking and advanced technology found throughout the MIT community. The arts have been an integral part of MIT since its founding, and this position builds upon the university's vision for the intersections of art, science and technology as an essential foundation for achieving institutional excellence.

"Everyone I've met so far at MIT has opened an exciting new door, and I am eager to discover what else will unfold as I begin my work at MIT," said Matthew Ritchie, the Dasha Zhukova

Distinguished Visiting Artist at MIT CAST. "Artistic and creative imagination play a critical role in empirical enquiry – the ability to imagine radically alternative outcomes and causes is essential to the success of any experimental model. The gamble, the vision, the guess, is vital, and I look forward to working with artistic and scientific partners at MIT as I research and develop a new artistic project."

ABOUT MATTHEW RITCHIE

Matthew Ritchie was born in London, England, in 1964, and lives and works in New York.

Ritchie's previous work at MIT includes [Games of Chance and Skill](#) (2002), a public art installation in the MIT Zesiger Center; [Darkness Visible](#) (2009), a performance with Bryce Dessner at the Broad Institute, that developed into a multi year collaboration with Dessner and Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music Evan Ziporyn at MIT, for *The Morning Line*, ZKM Karlsruhe, and *The Long Count / The Long Game* (2015), a multimedia performance at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston featuring MIT faculty and alumni.

He received a BFA from Camberwell School of Art, London, and attended Boston University. His artistic mission has been no less ambitious than questioning the various systems we use to represent and visualize the universe and the relationships between the structures of knowledge and belief that we use to understand it.

Matthew Ritchie's installations integrating painting, wall drawings, light boxes, performance, sculpture, and moving image are investigations into the complex and transient nature of information. His works describe generations of systems, ideas, and their subsequent interpretations in a kind of cerebral web, concretizing ephemeral and intangible theories of information and time. Ritchie has engaged in many cross-disciplinary collaborations, extending his own projects to explore the possibility of shared systems and aggregations in contexts as diverse as opera, contemporary music, architecture, horticulture, urban design, theology and science.

Ritchie has had more than twenty-five solo exhibitions throughout his career. Ritchie's work has been exhibited at the Dallas Museum of Art; the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami; MASS MoCA; SFMoMA; The Guggenheim, and MoMA, among others. Ritchie has also been involved in more than 100 group exhibitions since 1990 at an international level.

More at the artist's website: [Matthew Ritchie](#)

PREVIOUS RESIDENCIES

[Pedro Reyes](#), a widely celebrated multi-platform artist, activist and educator based in Mexico City, was the inaugural Dasha Zhukova Distinguished Visiting Artist at MIT in 2016-18. During his residency, Reyes taught a studio entitled “[The Reverse Engineering of Warfare](#)” in MIT’s Program in Art, Culture and Technology and created the acclaimed puppet play entitled *Manufacturing Mischief*. Reyes was inspired to make Institute Professor Noam Chomsky the protagonist of the play, which premiered at MIT in April 2018 in sold out performances. It went on to be shown in May 2018 at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and The Canadian Stage, The Power Plant in Toronto, and had month-long run at The Tank in New York in June 2018. *Manufacturing Mischief* was created by Pedro Reyes, and was directed by Meghan Finn, with a script by Paul Hufker.

HISTORY OF VISITING ARTISTS AT MIT / RECENT ARTISTS

Since the late 1960s, MIT has been a leader in integrating the arts and pioneering a model for collaboration among artists, scientists and engineers in a research setting. CAST’s Visiting Artists Program brings internationally acclaimed artists to engage with MIT’s creative community in ways that are mutually enlightening for the artists and for faculty, students and research staff at the Institute. Visual artists who have worked extensively at MIT include Mel Chin, Olafur Eliasson, Agnieszka Kurant, Rick Lowe, Vik Muniz, Trevor Paglen, Pedro Reyes, Tomás Saraceno and Anicka Yi. As CAST’s inaugural Visiting Artist, Saraceno initiated ongoing collaborations with researchers in Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) that have generated a master’s thesis and three senior projects to date. His large-scale installations and aerosolar projects are inspiring further research into bio-inspired building materials and simulations of atmospheric turbulence and ozone depletion. His *Aerocene* project in collaboration with EAPS was presented outdoors at MIT in spring 2018.

CAST Visiting Artists in the 2018-19 academic year include Matthew Ritchie, BIC, Hussein Chalayan, Jacob Collier, Karen Coonrod, Lisa Dwan, Joel Fan, Hyphen-Labs, Ayesha Jordan, Thom Kubli, Agnieszka Kurant, Andrew Schneider, Diemut Strebe, and Adrienne Truscott.

CAST grants for the 2018-19 academic year support faculty artist projects and artistic collaborations by Judith Barry, V. Michael Bove, Brandon Clifford, Michel DeGraff, Stephanie Frampton, Diana Henderson, Hiroshi Ishii, Mikael Jakobsson, Ana Miljački, Nick Montfort, Joe Paradiso, Seth Riskin, Jay Scheib, Pawan Sinha, Sarah Schwettmann, Skylar Tibbits, Keith Urban, and Gediminas Urbonas, William Uricchio, Brian Wardle, and Sarah Wolozin.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ART, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A major cross-school initiative, the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) creates new opportunities for art, science and technology to thrive as interrelated, mutually informing

modes of exploration, knowledge and discovery. CAST's multidisciplinary platform presents performing and visual arts programs, supports research projects for artists working with science and engineering labs, and sponsors symposia, classes, workshops, design studios, lectures and publications. The Center is funded in part by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Evan Ziporyn, Faculty Director; Leila W. Kinney, Executive Director.

Since its inception in 2012, CAST has been the catalyst for artist residencies and collaborative projects with MIT faculty and students—cross-disciplinary courses and workshops, concert series, and numerous multimedia projects, lectures and symposia. The visiting artists program is a cornerstone of CAST's activities, which encourage cross-fertilization among disciplines and intensive interaction with MIT's faculty and students.

ABOUT THE ARTS AT MIT

More than 70 percent of incoming freshmen have prior training in the arts and nearly 50 percent of all MIT undergraduates enroll in arts courses each year. The arts at MIT connect creative minds across disciplines and encourage a lifetime of exploration and self-discovery. The arts strengthen MIT's commitment to the aesthetic, human and social dimensions of research and innovation. Artistic knowledge and creation exemplify MIT's motto—*mens et manus*, mind and hand. The arts are essential to MIT's mission to build a better society and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

For more information, visit: <http://arts.mit.edu>

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