

## MIT Presents Two Major Arts Symposia April 1-10, 2021

“[Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation](#)” by the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) April 1-9 [Register here](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zo-MW6zJdg&feature=youtu.be>

[Max Wasserman Forum: “Another World”](#) with keynote by Hito Steyerl by the MIT List Visual Arts Center April 6-10 [Register here](#)

All sessions are presented online, free and open to the public

January 28, 2021, Cambridge, MA -- MIT will present two major symposia in the arts in April 2021: “[Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation](#)” April 1-9, focusing on aesthetic, technical, and critical issues pertaining to artificial intelligence (AI) and computational media; and the [Max Wasserman Forum “Another World”](#), April 6-10, exploring the values and aesthetics developed in artworks on digital platforms. The symposia are presented by the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) and by the MIT List Visual Arts Center respectively. Partners for the CAST symposium are the MIT Center for Advanced Virtuality, the MIT Transmedia Storytelling Initiative, and the MIT Trope Tank.

The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) presents “[Unfolding Intelligence: The Art and Science of Contemporary Computation](#),” with four panels, an online exhibition of generative artworks, and a new multi-platform artwork by CAST Visiting Artist Matthew Ritchie online April 1-9, 2021. “Unfolding Intelligence” is the third in a series of MIT CAST symposia that bring together artists, scientists, engineers, and humanists from a variety of disciplines to address topics of common concern in areas of rapidly evolving research and urgent social relevance. In addition to four panels, this virtual gathering includes online exhibitions featuring *The Invisible College*, a new multi-platform artwork developed by CAST Visiting Artist Matthew Ritchie, who will offer a Q&A session about the work, and an online exhibition of generative software artworks, curated by Nick Montfort.

The four “Unfolding Intelligence” panels Unfolding Models, Open Systems, Bias in AI, and Deep Time & Intelligence, address the following questions: How do recent tools in computation shape the models that scientists, artists, and engineers make of the world and universe? Can artists and scientists create a world in which Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and artificial intelligence (AI) are meaningfully brought together? Can AI and software systems explain how historically recalcitrant forms of oppression persist, embedded in our technologies? Can these same agents possibly provide alternative ways of being and living together? How has computation shaped the concept of intelligence and what models for the unfolding or formation of ideas does it provide?

“Unfolding Intelligence” Participants: *The Invisible College* Q&A: **Matthew Ritchie**; Unfolding Models panel: **Stefan Helmreich (Convener), Rosa Menkman, Priyamvada Natarajan, C. Brandon Ogbunu**; Deep Time & Intelligence panel: **William Lockett (Convener), Holly**

**Herndon, Gary Tomlinson, Antonio Torralba**; Open Systems panel: **Caroline A. Jones (Convener), Lars Bang Larsen, Jason Edward Lewis, Jenna Sutela, Megan Frederickson**; Bias in AI panel: **D. Fox Harrell, (Convener), Ruha Benjamin, Behnaz Farahi, Jon Kleinberg**; Generative Unfoldings online exhibition: Curated by **Nick Montfort**, artworks and artists: *Can The Subaltern Speak?* - **Behnaz Farahi**; *Concrete* - **Matt DesLauriers**; *The Curse Of Dimensionality* - **Philipp Schmitt**; *Gender Generator* - **Encoder Rat Decoder Rat**; *Greed* - **Maja Kalogera**; *Hexells* - **Alexander Mordvintsev**; *Letter From C* - **Cho Hye Min**; *Pac Tracer* - **Andy Wallace**; *The Politics Of The Paratextual* - **Karen ann Donnachie & Andy Simionato**; *P.S.A.A.* - **Juan Manuel Escalante**; *Seedlings\_*: *From Humus* - **Qianxun Chen & Mariana Roa Oliva**; *Self Doubting System* - **Lee Tusman**; *Someone Tell The Boyz* - **Arwa Mboya**; and *Songlines* - **Ágoston Nagy**.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center presents the [2021 Max Wasserman Forum, entitled “Another World,”](#) April 6-10, 2021. This year’s first virtual Forum brings together artists, educators, and writers at the forefront of discourses on art in the digital realm to share their deep understandings and perspectives on digital media’s potential for more radical, imaginative, and limitless forms of cyber expressions. A series of two pre-recorded online panel discussions *What are we Building?*, and *What are the Barriers?*, will address questions such as: How digital ecosystems shape our behaviors, values, and relationships? What strategies are employed by artists to bridge speculative ideas and in real life encounters? What are the extended or alternative experiences provided by artists that affect human consciousness? The Forum culminates with a captioned live stream closing address by Berlin-based filmmaker and visual artist Hito Steyerl on April 10.

Wasserman Forum Speakers: *What are we Building?* Panel: **Eunsong Kim** (moderator), **Salome Asega, Rindon Johnson, and Lawrence Lek**; *What are the Barriers?* Panel: **Gloria Sutton** (moderator), **American Artist** and **Lauren Lee McCarthy**; Panel discussions will be made available online April 6-10; Closing address and Q&A session live stream with **Hito Steyerl** takes place Saturday, April 10, 3pm EST.

About the partners:

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. More information: [arts.mit.edu/cast](https://arts.mit.edu/cast)

The **MIT 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, as well as a broad range of educational programs, events, and scholarly publications. More information: [listart.mit.edu](http://listart.mit.edu)

The **MIT Center for Advanced Virtuality** (MIT Virtuality for short) pioneers innovative experiences using technologies of virtuality — computing systems that construct imaginative experiences atop our physical world. Our approach to engineering and creative practices pushes the expressive potential of technologies of virtuality and simulates social and cognitive phenomena, while intrinsically considering their social and cultural impacts. More information: [virtuality.mit.edu/](http://virtuality.mit.edu/)

The **MIT Transmedia Storytelling Initiative** was founded in 2019 and builds on MIT’s bold tradition of art education, research, production, and innovation in media-based storytelling, from film through augmented reality. Supported by a foundational gift from David and Nina Fialkow, the Initiative is an influential hub for pedagogy and research in time-based media, where stories and data operate across multiple platforms and social transformations. More information: [news.mit.edu/2019/transmedia-storytelling-initiative-launches-0612](http://news.mit.edu/2019/transmedia-storytelling-initiative-launches-0612)

The **MIT Trope Tank** is a lab and studio with locations in New York City and at MIT whose mission is developing new poetic practices and new understandings of digital media by focusing on the material, formal, and historical aspects of computation and language. The Trope Tank hosts postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate researchers, student visits from various classes, codefests, and other sorts of events and collaborations. The component of this lab and studio that is situated at MIT is a research group in [Comparative Media Studies and Writing](#). More information: [tropetank.com](http://tropetank.com)

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