



Alia Farid
Annatina Caprez
Hope Ginsburg
Marisa Jahn
Kate James
Edgar Pedroza
Sofia Ponte
Ben Wood

Launch: New Work in a New Space

Introducing Work from the MIT Visual Arts Program
in the new VAP Project Space

Opening Reception:
Sat May 19, 2007, 6-9 pm

Open House
Sun May 20, 2007, 11-6 pm

location:
MIT Visual Arts Program
Department of Architecture

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Avenue, N51-315
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The Visual Arts Program focuses on the development of critical visionary strategies in artistic practice within the context of the advanced technological community of MIT. With an emphasis on experimental approaches to studio production in both traditional and new media, this year the Master of Science in Visual Studies candidates focus on a breadth of interdisciplinary topics.

Integrating the symbology of her Arab and Hispanic heritage, Alia Farid's sculptural installations meditate on hybridity. Annatina Caprez's investigation into the representation and politics of space take form as maps. Hope Ginsburg's 'SPONGE' is a workshop model based on immersion, absorption and connection-making around themes as diverse as Mongolian craft, art and industry, undersea life, and utopianism. Between art, mischief, and curatorial practices, Marisa Jahn's book of letters gathers dialogue, diary, and document. 'DeDe Tache's High Performance Gymnasium' is Kate James' gym where costume, movement, and habit are re-embodied as 'DeDe Tache', an imaginary alter-ego. Edgar Pedroza's ongoing 'Site Translations' mediates the space between physical constructions and intangible objects. Sofia Ponte's installation 'The Spine' is a work-in-progress that stimulates dialogues between personal and social experiences. Ben Wood's two-year long investigation of the dramaturgy surrounding the destruction of the Diego Rivera mural at the Rockefeller Center takes form as a cinematic installation that merges film, painting, and documentary traditions.

Bill Arning, curator of the List Visual Arts Center at MIT comments, "The MIT VAP artists seem to me unique among Masters candidates-and I see many different crops as a frequent visitor to all the area schools-in that they emerge from the program ready to engage the culture beyond the parochial focus of the art market. Their practices are diverse and might have germinated from within many other parts of advanced cultural practice, such as anthropology, urban studies, archeology, botany and comparative literature-yet they do not slight the need for poetry, wit and beauty in engaging the general public in what might be considered obscure topics. They have clearly taken advantage of the diversity of MIT's brain power and programs. Their focus and discipline is crucial, as is their worldliness and knowledge of international art practice and history. It will be interesting to see where their future impact will happen, but it is sure to be substantial."

For more information about the MIT VAP graduate students, please visit:
<http://web.vap.mit.edu/>



funded (in part) by:
the Council for the Arts at MIT
MIT Visual Arts Program
MIT Associate Provost for the Arts