

# Public Works



## ***LIGHT MATRIX (MIT), 2016***

Leo Villareal

September 13, 2016

6 PM Artist Talk, Leo Villarreal, Bartos Theatre E15

7 PM Dedication and reception, Lobby E52

Join us immediately following the talk for the formal dedication of *Light Matrix (MIT)* and a reception. Toast to MIT's newest piece of public art with Leo Villarreal and members of the MIT community.



Leo Villareal's *Light Matrix (MIT)*, 2016, comprises 240 stainless steel rods, each of which contains 72 white LEDs (for a total of 17,280 lights). The 9-foot rods hang vertically, realizing a luminescent canopy suspended from the ceiling of the Morris and Sophie Chang Building's North Vestibule. Movement and light feature prominently within the work and echo the function of the site itself, which is traversed daily by the MIT community. The mirrored surfaces of the installation reflect the LED light, allowing the work to be experienced both up close and from far away.

*Light Matrix (MIT)* was commissioned as a percent-for-art project in conjunction with the renovation of the Morris and Sophie Chang Building—Building E52 which houses MIT Sloan School of Management, MIT's Department of Economics, and MIT Faculty Club. The renovation was completed by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners, LLP.

Villareal was selected for the commission by Percent-for-Art committee members including: Richard Amster, Director of Facilities for Campus Planning, Engineering & Construction; Thayer Donham, Senior Planner for Campus Planning & Design; Paul Ha, Director, List Visual Arts Center; Lucinda Hill, Director, Sloan Capital Projects; Henry Humphreys, Senior Associate Dean of Residential Life and Dining; Marc Jones, Assistant Dean of Finance & Administration; Elizabeth Leber, architect, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners, LLP; Sonia Richards, Project Manager, Programming and Design, Capital Projects; and Alise Uptis, Assistant Curator, List Visual Arts Center.

## About the Artist

Leo Villareal was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1967. Villareal received a BA in sculpture from Yale University in 1990, and a graduate degree from NYU Tisch School of the Arts' Interactive Telecommunications Program. His recent exhibitions include a survey show organized by the San Jose Museum of Art, which traveled to several museums in the United States. He has completed many site-specific works including *Radiant Pathway* at Rice University, *Multiverse* at The National Gallery of Art and *Diagonal Grid* at Borusan Culture and Arts in Istanbul, Turkey. Villareal's *The Bay Lights* shines from dawn until dusk on the San Francisco Bay Bridge West Span from March 5, 2013 through March 2015. Newly commissioned installations at Cornell University and the Durst Organization in New York City will be in visible public spaces. Villareal's work is in the permanent collections of many museum including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, The Museum of Modern Art, and the National Gallery of Art.

## About MIT's Percent-for-Art Program

MIT's Percent-for-Art program allots funds to commission or purchase art for each new major renovation or building project. The program was formally instituted in 1968, but earlier collaborations between artists and architects can be found on the Institute's campus. When architect Eero Saarinen designed the MIT Chapel in 1955, sculptor Theodore Roszak designed the bell tower and sculptor Harry Bertioia designed the altar screen.

In 1985 architect I.M. Pei and artists Scott Burton, Kenneth Noland, and Richard Fleischner collaborated on a Percent-for-Art project for the Wiesner Building, home to MIT's List Visual Arts Center and Media Lab. Other Percent-for-Art works have been commissioned or purchased from such artists as Mark di Suvero, Jackie Ferrara, Dan Graham, Antony Gormley, Cai Guo-Qiang, Candida Höfer, Anish Kapoor, Sol LeWitt, Louise Nevelson, Jorge Pardo, Matthew Ritchie, and Sarah Sze.



# Upcoming Events and Programs

## **Ethan Hayes-Chute: Artist Talk & Spice Jar Workshop**

September 27, evening  
Bartos Theater, E-15  
This event is sponsored by Hubweek

## ***Ampersand Concert Series: Death Vessel & Soft Cat***

September 29, 8 PM  
Doors open at 7:30 PM  
Bartos Theater, E-15

## ***Edgar Arceneaux: Written in Smoke and Fire* Opening Reception**

October 13, 6 PM

## **ART21 Film Screening**

October 22nd, 4 PM  
Bartos Theater, E-15

## ***Ursula von Rydingsvard : Dedication and Reception***

October 28, evening  
McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT

## **Leroy and Dorothy Lavine Lecture**

### ***Nature Is Never Finished: Land Art Conservation in the 21st Century***

November 10, 6 PM  
Bartos Theater, E-15

## **Edgar Arceneaux Screening**

### ***Until, Until, Until***

November 18, evening  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Remis Auditorium



Please visit [listart.mit.edu](http://listart.mit.edu) for more updates.

MIT List Visual Arts Center