

Center for Advanced Visual Studies

The Center for Advanced Visual Studies in the School of Architecture and Planning was founded in 1967 as a long-term fellowship program for artists. Significant redevelopment began in academic year 2005 with new staff members and new plans for a combined program of short- and long-term artists' residencies. Short-term visitors present their work publicly and are invited to propose projects for the longer-term program. Two applicants are then selected to participate in the long-term residency the following year. These visits create a unique and well-attended forum for the discussion of contemporary art and social issues in the context of MIT. Pilot programs for MIT graduate students and undergraduates to collaborate on long-term artistic and research projects with artists and designers will be initiated in AY2006.

CAVS personnel consists of director and professor of architecture Krzysztof Wodiczko, associate director Larissa Harris, technical and administrative part-time staff members, and short- and long-term artist residents. During AY2005 the long-term artist residents were Otto Piene, Keiko Prince, Elizabeth Goldring, Seth Riskin, Nell Breyer, Tamiko Thiel, and Adam Whiton of the Interrogative Design Group.

New Staff Members

Associate director Larissa Harris, a curator and editor, started at CAVS in August 2004. After five years at PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York's largest venue for contemporary art, during which time she coordinated its national and international studio program and helped organize over 30 solo projects and exhibitions, she joined *Artforum International* magazine as associate editor (and continues to be a regular contributor). After organizing a series of independent projects with young artists parallel to this position, Harris's continuing interest in a situation combining artmaking and pedagogy brought her to MIT. A frequent visiting critic at MFA programs around the United States, Harris was invited to teach a studio critique in the graduate program at Rhode Island School of Design in spring 2005.

Administrative assistant Meg Rotzel started part-time work at CAVS in January 2005. Rotzel is an emerging artist, executive director, and cofounder (in 2000) of the Berwick Research Institute, an innovative artists' residency program in Boston. This year Rotzel curated a retrospective exhibition of Berwick projects at the Mills Gallery in Boston and continues to work with the City of Boston on their Artist Live/Work initiative and with the Office of Cultural Affairs on public art projects.

Production manager Joe Zane also started part-time work at CAVS in January 2005. Zane is an emerging artist and frequent visiting professor of art at Cornell and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Zane has shown work at the Allston Skirt gallery in Boston, at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and at the Media Test Wall at MIT. His work was included in *Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists*, curated by Matthew Higgs at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston in the spring of 2004.

Ongoing Staff Activities

In AY2005, Professor Krzysztof Wodiczko, director of CAVS, acting director of the Visual Arts Program in the Department of Architecture, and an artist of international stature, gave lectures at MIT, nationally, and abroad at institutions including the University of Utah, Maryland Institute of Art, University of Minnesota, Center for Architecture in New York, Baltimore Museum, and art centers and universities in Barcelona, Basel, Venice, Linz, and Warsaw. Professor Wodiczko's *Dis-Armor*, a continuing cultural project, was presented in the widely reviewed exhibition *The Interventionists* at MASS MoCA in 2004. In July 2005, PBS's *Art 21* series will broadcast a program dedicated to Professor Wodiczko's work. He has also been commissioned by the city of Nantes, with the architect Julian Bonder, to design a memorial commemorating the abolition of slavery in France. In September 2005, Professor Wodiczko will hold a solo exhibition at Gallery Lelong in New York, and in November a major retrospective exhibition and a public projection will be mounted at the Zacheta National Gallery of Contemporary Art in Warsaw, Poland. Other public projections are planned at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona. In spring 2005 he gave his well-known *Technologies of Dissensus* workshop, which brought together students from the Department of Architecture, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, the Media Laboratory, and engineering.

Director emeritus Otto Piene completed the book *Sky Art 2002*, a publication based on the *Sky Art* conference held in Greece in 2002. He continues to work on *CenterBook*, which documents 35 years of work at CAVS. In 2004 his work was included in *Zero: 1958-1968 tra Germania e Italia*, at the Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy.

Short-Term Artist Highlights

On October 29, 2004, CAVS hosted *Starter Culture*, a "teach-in" on bioart, biotech and society. Artists' group 16 Beaver Group with the Critical Art Ensemble gave eight short talks on bioart, biotech, and biopolitics. Discussions were based on questions of politics of biotechnology under global capitalism, the status of scientific expertise in a democracy, and the principle of freedom of research relevant to contemporary art among others. The research that came out of this conference was used by artist and University of California at San Diego professor Natalie Jeremijenko to assist in the defense of accused artist and University of Buffalo professor Steve Kurtz.

On November 17–20, 2004, CAVS hosted *Trans:It*, a three-part documentary, workshop, and exhibition project on new-genre public art in Europe. *Trans:It* was later invited to participate in the Venice Biennial, the most important international showcase for contemporary art.

On April 20, 2005, CAVS hosted the New England premiere of video and performance artist Miranda July's first feature film, *You and Me and Everyone We Know*, with the artist attending. The film premiered at Sundance Film Festival, where it received a special jury prize for originality of vision. On May 23, the film received the Palme D'Or for the best first feature at the Cannes Film Festival.

The full list of short-term artists is as follows: Ronald Jones, Michael Smith, Miranda July, Seth Price, Tom Johnson, Dean Daderko, Sharon Hayes, the Critical Art Ensemble with the 16 Beaver Group, the Center for Urban Pedagogy, K8 Hardy, and Cesare Pietroiusti.

Long-Term Artist Highlights

Spring 2005 fellow Marjetica Potrc is an internationally prominent Slovenian artist and architect whose work addresses the shifting terrain of the contemporary city and how its inhabitants adjust to its continual reinvention. As part of her own collaborative project (with artist, architect, and Storefront for Art and Architecture founder Kyong Park) inspired by contemporary informal architecture in the Balkans, she initiated a graduate interdisciplinary independent study on mapping the overlap of formal and informal systems in the western, post-communist, and developing world at CAVS. Four out of the 11 students involved received grants for work begun in the workshop, including Azra Aksamija, PhD candidate in the Department of Architecture, who received an Aga Khan program grant; Daniel Berry, MCP candidate in Urban Studies and Planning, who received a Harold Horowitz ('51) student research fund award to support his research in a study titled *Heretical Urbanism: New Prospects for a Changing Detroit*; and Nadia Nilina, PhD candidate in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, who also received a Harold Horowitz grant.

In addition to her work at CAVS, Marjetica Potrc opened a solo exhibition at Max Protetch Gallery, New York, in March 2005. Potrc also developed, in collaboration with artist John Osorio-Buck and CAVS staff member Meg Rotzel, a practical and witty residency pack to be used as a welcome gift and orientation aid for future CAVS visitors.

Fellow Nell Breyer curated *The Body +*, a retrospective video compilation of performance pieces at the MIT Museum during the Cyberarts Festival, which also included her work as a co-curator and artist in the Ideas in Motion conference. She was awarded an IMOOV HD grant in support of programming broadcasted on VOOM's cable TV network in Philadelphia. Her *Walking Wall* video installation was shown at Arts Interactive in *Collisions Collective 6* (Cambridge), a video project was shown at Ethan Cohen Fine Arts (Miami), *Body Paint* was shown at the Nesto Art Gallery (Massachusetts) and *It was here a minute ago*, curated by V. Mijelsohn, was shown at the NURTUREart Gallery (New York City). *Time Translations*, an interactive video installation, will be installed at the World Financial Center in June and July (New York City), and was funded in part by a grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Fellow Tamiko Thiel showed an overview of her virtual reality works dealing with political and social issues at the Goethe-Institut Boston during the Boston Cyberarts Festival 2005. Her work *Beyond Manzanar* was shown in *Xenopolis: Von der Faszination und Ausgrenzung des Fremden* in Munich, Germany.

Fellow Elizabeth Goldring continued to receive NASA funding for research on the "seeing machine" designed to help people with macular degeneration. She had four Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program students working with her on this project and will continue her work throughout the summer months.

Finally, in good news for the future, CAVS was awarded its first organizational grant in a decade: support for its long-term residency program from the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation.

Krzysztof Wodiczko
Director
Professor of Architecture

More information about the Center for Advanced Visual Studies can be found online at <http://cavs.mit.edu/>.