Collision is a cross-disciplinary lecture series that examines the intersection of research in science, technology and contemporary art. This event pairs current research from the MIT Visual Arts Program with cutting edge research in other disciplines including mobile communication design, renewable energy, and neuroscience.

Mondays 7 – 9 pm
Joan Jonas Performance Hall
265 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
Bldg N51-337, 3rd floor
Adjacent to the MIT Museum
February 23, 2009
Jegan Vincent de Paul
Wendy Jacob
Jae Rhim Lee
Energy, Community, Communication

Vincent de Paul is a second-year graduate student in the MIT Visual Arts Program whose current work deals with global energy access. His Community Grid Project envisions a novel utilization in ultracapacitor technology: using human labor to close the gap between communities with access to energy resources and those without, through the physical transport of personal ultracapacitors.

Wendy Jacob, an artist and research associate at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, directs the newly-established Autism Studio in the MIT Visual Arts Program. The studio explores perceptual features of the broad range of autistic experience, and to create objects, spaces, and events that resonate with those experiences.

Jae Rhim Lee, Visiting Lecturer at the MIT Visual Arts Program, directs the MIT FEMA Trailer Project, which is transforming one of the 94,000 surplus trailers into an alternative vehicle to be donated to a community organization. The FEMA Trailer has come to symbolize the environmental, social, economic, and administrative challenges associated with temporary disaster housing. Her project applies environmental justice and permaculture principles to a trailer’s conceptualization and re-design.

March 02, 2009
Armin Linke
Carlo Ratti
Tracking Trash

How can pervasive technologies and contemporary art expose the challenges of waste management and sustainability?

Armin Linke is a new affiliate of the MIT Visual Arts Program. He is a multi-media artist based in Milan and Berlin, working in video, photography, sound, interactive installation spaces and design, combining different mediums to blur the border between fiction and reality. He is working on an ongoing archive on human activity and the most varied natural and man-made landscapes.

Carlo Ratti is a designer, engineer and agit-propponent, Carlo Ratti teaches at MIT, where he directs the SENSEable City Laboratory. He also practices architecture in Turin, Italy. His work has been shown at many venues, including the Venice Biennale (2004, 2006 and 2008), the Graz Kunsthaus (2005), the Design Museum in Barcelona (2008), the World Expo (2008) and MoMa the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2008).

March 09, 2009
Gediminas Urbonas
Joe Dahmen
Bio-Diversity

Ruta Remake is an interdisciplinary project that transforms the ruta plant into a cultural icon, signifying the changing role of women in Lithuanian culture. Bodega Algae LLC is a startup company that designs systems to produce biofuel from algae, phytoplankton that absorbs greenhouse gases as they grow. From algae to energy or ruta to remix, these projects challenge our traditional notions of biodiversity.

Gediminas Urbonas is a newly-appointed Associate Professor in the MIT Visual Arts Program who began his artistic practice in Vilnius, Lithuania. There he shares an artistic collaboration with Nomeda Urbonas. Together they founded the JUTEMPUS interdisciplinary art program, a model for social and artistic collaboration. Their approach embraces a flexible array of disciplines, utilizing old and new media practices.

Joe Dahmen is an architect whose work engages resource and energy consumption in the design of space and the infrastructure that supports it. He is Chief Executive Officer of Bodega Algae LLC. Dahmen has pioneered new construction techniques for the use of rammed earth structures in New England, consults on projects internationally, and teaches sustainable design at the Boston Architectural College.

April 06, 2009
Amber Frid-Jimenez
Sebastian Seung
Brain, Body, Network

What is the connection between neural networks and networked culture? How does analyzing brain activity relate to designing platforms for distributed social action? What are the connections and dissonances between these two fields?

Sebastian Seung is a Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and a Professor of Physics at MIT. A revolution is happening in neuroanatomy (the study of the brain’s structure). We can now generate images that reveal the full complexity of the brain’s neural network using machines that slice brains into thin sections and microscopes that see at the nanoscale. Seung’s lab develops artificial intelligence that will analyze the images and extract “connectomes” — maps of all connections between neurons in a brain.

Amber Frid-Jimenez is an artist, technologist, and Visiting Lecturer at the MIT Visual Arts Program. Frid-Jimenez will address the dynamic between people and machines in distributed networks, including CLI-mate, a project in development with conceptual artist Mel Chin composed of a networked platform that aims to create an intense personal relationship between individuals and global climate change.

April 13, 2009
On the WOW Pod: A Design for Intimacy and Fantasy-Fulfillment for the World of Warcraft Addict

This lecture series is directed by Ute Meta Bauer and Amber Frid-Jimenez in coordination with course “4.397/4.366 Networked Cultures: Body versus Network” in the MIT Visual Arts Program.

MIT Visual Arts Program
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Architecture

Joan Jonas Performance Hall
265 Massachusetts Avenue
Bldg N51-337, 3rd floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

Directions
The MIT Visual Arts Program is located adjacent to the MIT Museum. Enter through the grey door on Front Street and take the elevator to the third floor. Exit to your left and go down the ramp. The Joan Jonas Performance Hall is located on the right.

By Public Transportation
Take the Red Line to Central Square. Walk four blocks along Massachusetts Avenue towards Boston and the Charles River, or take the #1 bus to the Front Street stop.

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