The Awards Convocation is one of MIT’s largest awards ceremonies, drawing on offices, departments, and people from across the Institute including the arts, athletics, student life, academics, alumni, staff, faculty, and students.

Below is pertinent information regarding the award, the award coordinator’s name, the selection committee, and how the nominees are selected. If you have specific questions about an award please contact the award coordinator.

**Award Name:** The Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts

**Award Coordinator Title:** Director, Council for the Arts at MIT

**Managing DLC:** Office of the Arts

**Award is for:** Presented to current MIT students, undergraduate, and graduate, for excellence in a body of work in the visual arts. Students submit an artistic portfolio for consideration. A generous endowment allows for the award of up to three Graduate Student prize

**How are nominations reviewed:** Students self-select to apply for consideration by submitting a portfolio for consideration via SlideRoom and reviewed the Student Art Awards Selection Committee. Depending on the number and strength of portfolios received, the Selection Committee may receive a short list of nominations for consideration.

**Selection criteria:** Portfolios are evaluated based upon the coherence and scope of the body of work, as demonstrated by the clarity of inquiry or vision; quality of execution of artistic product; command of medium; use of materials, including technology, computation, fabrication, and research; and demonstrated ability of the artist to contribute to and impact artistic conversations and practices at MIT and beyond.

**How are recipients selected:** Portfolios are reviewed by the Selection Committee and evaluated in the context of the prize criteria. The Selection Committee recommends prize candidates to the Executive Director of Arts Initiative for endorsement.

**Selection committee titles:** The Selection Committee is co-chaired by the Director of the Council for the Arts at MIT, which is an arts advisory group made of alumni and friends of MIT who support the arts, and a member of the Council's Executive Committee. Additional Committee members include members
of the Office of the Arts’ student programs team, arts faculty and arts program staff from across the Institute; previous prize winners are also invited to serve on the selection committee.

**Award Contact Email:** awards-schnitzer@mit.edu