



OCEANS

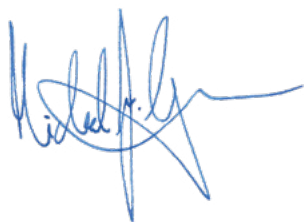
September 2026—April 2027

MIT
MUSEUM



Dive into OCEANS at the MIT Museum

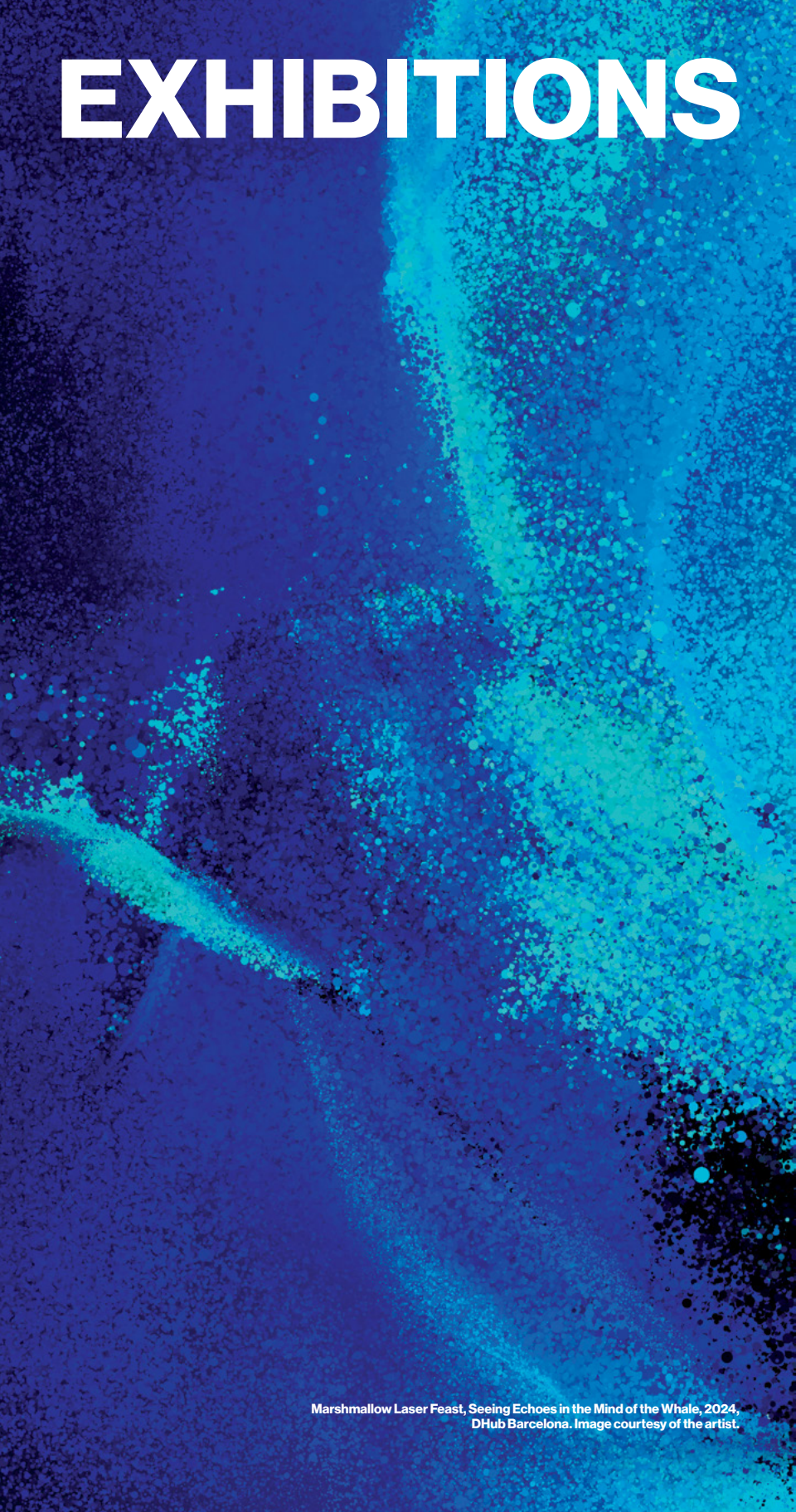
In his book *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*, MIT anthropologist Stefan Helmreich describes the ocean as a space where “worldly nature oscillates between familiar and strange, in which the very category of ‘life’ is at sea.” Oceans challenge scientific, cultural, and ecological boundaries. As we seek to sense, understand, and navigate oceans through technology, from their microbial denizens to their currents and hydrothermal vents, we reveal an alien world that scientists and engineers at MIT and our partner institutions are exploring through a dazzling array of technologies. This is the focus of the MIT Museum’s new thematic season, which brings science, art, design and technology together to immerse us in our ocean planet.



Michael John Gorman

The Mark R. Epstein (Class of 1963)
Director, MIT Museum and
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September 2026

EXHIBITIONS

The background of the entire page is an abstract composition of fine, glowing particles in various shades of blue and cyan. These particles are arranged in several distinct, sweeping arcs that curve across the frame, creating a sense of dynamic movement and depth. The density of the particles varies, with some areas appearing more concentrated and brighter than others, contributing to a textured, ethereal visual effect.

Marshmallow Laser Feast, *Seeing Echoes in the Mind of the Whale*, 2024,
DHub Barcelona. Image courtesy of the artist.

Sensing Oceans

September 28, 2026—February 21, 2027, Henri A. Termeer Gallery

Sensing Oceans delves into the rich, dynamic ocean environment by exploring the myriad ways that humans and ocean creatures sense and make sense of the ocean. Early oceanographic instruments, current research, and contemporary artwork—including *Seeing Echoes in the Mind of the Whale* and *Plankton Temple* from artist collective Marshmallow Laser Feast—combine for a multifaceted exploration of oceans and the many ways that tools, senses, and media render the watery environment fathomable.

Marshmallow Laser Feast, *Plankton Temple*, 2025, *Echoes of the Ocean* exhibition at Fundación Telefónica in Madrid. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Margaret Wertheim and Christine Wertheim: Crochet Coral Reef

August 14, 2026—February 14, 2027, Exchange Gallery



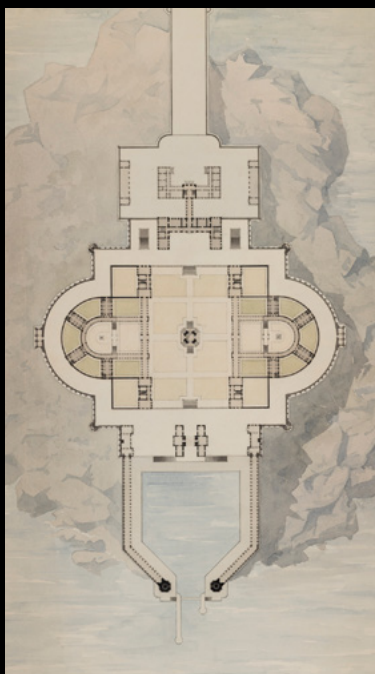
Crochet Coral Reef invites visitors into a mesmerizing convergence of art, science, and community. Centered on the work of Margaret Wertheim and Christine Wertheim of the Institute For Figuring, the exhibition presents hand-crocheted explorations of the geometries hidden within nature's most delicate sea creatures—a globally distributed, community-sourced investigation into applied mathematics, evolutionary theory, and climate change. Resonating alongside this work are folded-paper sculptures by MIT's Erik and Martin Demaine, who coax the same hyperbolic curves from paper.

Five Fathoms Deep, coral painting at Museum Frieder Burda, part of the worldwide Crochet Coral Reef project by Margaret Wertheim and Christine Wertheim and the Institute For Figuring. Photo by Richard Nielsen.



Water Lines

December 17, 2026 — June 27, 2027, Ronald A. (1954) and Carol S. Kurtz Photography Gallery



The spaces where humans interface with water pose unique design challenges and offer opportunities for creative solutions. They reveal our impulse to design, control, or react to the forces of water and their impact on human activity.

Water Lines draws from the MIT Museum's collection of over 8,000 architecture student thesis drawings and will highlight additional work by recent graduates. Together, these projects demonstrate continuity, change, and innovation across more than 150 years of MIT student work.

Arthur V. Edwards, A Quarantine Hospital, MIT Architecture Thesis, 1889. Courtesy MIT Museum.

PROGRAMS



After Dark at the MIT Museum, photo by Olivia Moon

OCEANS AT THE MIT MUSEUM

We live on an ocean planet. The oceans make up 71% of the Earth's surface, yet we have better maps of the surface of Mars than of our oceans' depths. Oceans are the world's most important carbon sink, the origin of life on Earth, home to a known 226,000 species, critically important for food and trade, and threatened by climate change and pollution.

How can technology help us understand, explore, and map the oceans? What strategies will help safeguard marine biodiversity and coral reefs? How do oceans affect our atmosphere? Could oceans be the key to addressing climate change? How can we create a sustainable blue economy? OCEANS at the MIT Museum, launching in September 2026, will bring together art, science, technology, and design to investigate Earth's last unexplored frontier.

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MIT MechE (Course 2)
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Highlighted Programs

This season, the MIT Museum invites you to explore the wonders, mysteries, and challenges of our oceans through immersive programs, groundbreaking films, creative workshops, and thought-provoking conversations.

Featured programs include a participatory performance on sea level rise created with Boston Dance Theater, an afternoon-long exploration of sea ice dynamics organized in partnership with MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, and a Coastal Climate Change Toolkit learning lab.

Dive deeper through our curated OCEANS film series, presenting powerful documentaries followed by conversations with award-winning filmmakers: *Entangled* with David Abel, *The Coral Rescuers* with Jason Spingarn-Koff, and *A Life Illuminated* with producer Jessica Harrop.

The MIT Museum's popular After Dark series will provide moments to experience subjects such as ocean soundscapes, deep sea exploration, and coral. This event series is held on the second Thursday of each month from 6pm—9pm for adults aged 18+.



Learn more about additional events and programs at mitmuseum.mit.edu/on-now/programs-and-events

HART NAUTICAL GALLERY

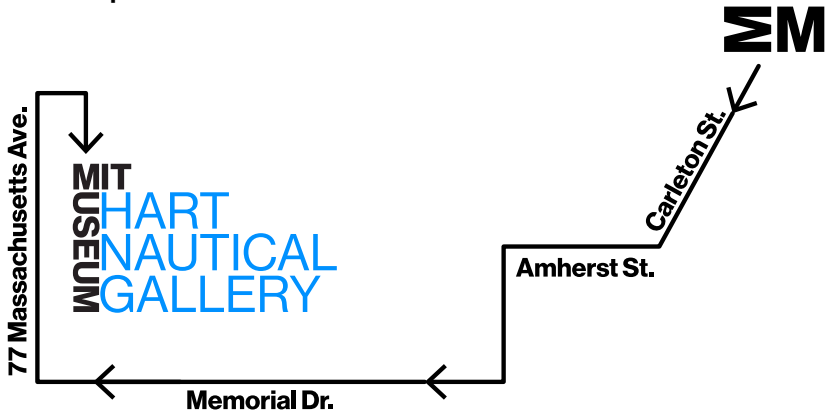
Free and open daily, Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

The Hart Nautical Gallery is an exhibit space dedicated to ocean engineering in the heart of the MIT campus. Located in historic Building 5, the gallery displays ship models and other material related to MIT's 130-year history of researching and inventing for the ocean. The current exhibit, *Technology and the Sea*, traces recurring challenges like time, manufacturing, and

energy through generations of maritime innovation.

The gallery is also home to exhibits showcasing current work from MIT's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Center for Ocean Engineering.

The Hart Nautical Gallery is located at 55 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge; for walking directions from the MIT Museum, see the map below.





MIT Museum Team, photo by Michael J. Clarke

ABOUT THE MIT MUSEUM

The MIT Museum aims to connect curious minds to MIT's unique culture of problem solving and playful creativity, bringing together science, technology, art, and design in surprising ways to explore our future.

In addition to exhibitions, programs, a maker hub, and learning labs, the Museum invites visitors to take part in ongoing research while demonstrating how science and innovation will shape the future of society. In October 2022, a reinvented MIT Museum opened in a new location in the heart of Kendall Square in Cambridge, MA.

Highlights of the Museum include freshly conceived exhibitions featuring objects from the Museum's prodigious collection of over 1.5 million objects, along with loans of art and other objects; the Yuchun (1989) and Agustina Lee Family Exchange event space for public dialogue and conversation; the hands-on Maker Hub, where audiences can create and invent; and an expanded Museum Store.

The MIT Museum's main building is situated in Kendall Square, in the heart of "the most innovative square mile on the planet," at the base of the Kendall/MIT MBTA Red Line stop at the new Kendall Gateway to the MIT Campus and is open daily 10am—5pm.

For more information, including accessibility and amenities, please visit mitmuseum.mit.edu

**“To sense this
world of waters
known to the
creatures of the
sea we must
shed our human
perceptions”**

—Rachel Carson



To learn more about our
focus on OCEANS, please visit
mitmuseum.mit.edu/oceans

MIT Museum
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