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MIT welcomes Artist in Residence Aaron Koblin
- Prominent data-visualization artist will speak at MIT -
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CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Beginning on September 28, critically acclaimed visual artist Aaron Koblin will visit MIT as the 2010-11 Abramowitz Artist in Residence. Koblin will give a public lecture entitled “Crowds and Clouds: Data, Sheep, and Collaboration in the Works of Aaron Koblin” at the Ray and Maria Stata Center on Thursday September 30, 2010. He will discuss the changing relationship between humans and data, and approaches to re-introducing the human qualities of experience into contextualized data. The event, co-sponsored by the Office of the Arts at MIT and the MIT SENSEable City Lab, begins at 6:30pm in room 32-141 and will be followed by a public reception at 7:30pm in the lobby.

During the two-week residency, Koblin will work with students, faculty and research groups in the MIT community, and participate in a hands-on data processing and 3D visualization workshop entitled “Floating Pixels.” The workshop, organized by the SENSEable City Lab, will bring together a diverse group of students from MIT on Saturday October 2, 2010 to explore new physical and digital 3D media trends and data experiments.

Koblin is the Technology Lead of Google’s Creative Lab in San Francisco, where he specializes in data visualization of complex systems, dynamic interfaces and crowd-based art works. Using datasets and statistics to paint digital works-of-art, Koblin beautifully reveals cultural trends and patterns of the world-at-large.

In fact, Koblin’s visualizations are so captivating, they have been included in the Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collections. He has animated the flight patterns of airline traffic over North America, using intricate, flowing lines to indicate a plane’s trajectory. The world-acclaimed UK band Radiohead worked with Koblin and Director James Frost on the band’s 2008 “House of Cards” music video, in which Koblin and Frost rendered the band members as mesmerizing, three-dimensional moving particles. As Technology Lead of the Google Creative Lab, Koblin was behind the new interactive short film *The Wilderness Downtown* directed by Chris Milk for Arcade Fire’s song *We Used To Wait*.

Koblin’s work has been shown at international festivals including Ars Electronica, SIGGRAPH, OFFF, the Japan Media Arts Festival, and TEDActive. He received the National Science Foundation’s first place award for science visualization. NPR, *The New York Times*, and WIRED have profiled his work. Koblin received a Master of Fine Arts from the Department of Design | Media Arts at UCLA and a Bachelor of Arts in Electronic Art at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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The Abramowitz Lecture Series was established at MIT through the generosity and imagination of William L. Abramowitz 1935 as a memorial to his father. It has been sustained since his death by the devoted interest of his wife and children. Since 1961, the series has brought renowned artists and writers to MIT to present their work and collaborate with faculty and students