FALL 2019 SPECIAL SUBJECT - 3.S06 (HASS-A)

Casting a Tradition



Fall 2019; M 1-2 pm (Lecture), MW 2-5 pm (Lab), Lead Instructor: Tara Fadenrecht Units: 1-6-2, Cannot be repeated for credit; Limited enrollment (12)

Tradition runs deep at MIT. From hacking to Pi Day, students welcome the opportunity to add their individual contribution to the line of collective tradition. In this special subject course, students will work to create an interactive metal sculpture that embraces another tradition at MIT, the "brass rat" class ring. This life-size, cast bronze beaver sculpture, complete with moveable tail and magnetic hair, will be entirely realized by MIT undergraduates within MIT laboratories. The course will provide a cross-disciplinary approach to sculpture that will include art history, metallurgy, and mechanical engineering. From schematic rendering to metal casting, fabrication, polishing and patination, (and the many steps in between), students in this class will learn through hands-on experience how a cast sculpture comes to fruition as well as how much applied materials science knowledge is involved in art-making.

Image: John J. Audubon, American Beaver from *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, Pl. 46.



Questions? Email: contact-metals-lab@mit.edu