

MSU BROAD

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MSU Collaboration Supports Exhibition on the Intersections of Art and Chemistry in Midland, Michigan

East Lansing, MI – When the Midland Center for the Arts contacted MSU’s Office for Research and Innovation in the Fall of 2018 to assist with the development of an exhibition about the science of paint, they were quick to identify a larger opportunity for MSU collaboration and put them in touch with the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad).

Almost a year later, the exhibition *Science Paints Our World: Chemistry & Art* opens in the Alden B. Dow Museum’s Main Gallery, and boasts 19 works on loan from the MSU Broad—including works by renowned artists such as Alexander Calder, Helen Frankenthaler, and Charles Pollock.

“The advocacy from MSU’s Research and Innovation Office bridged the gap to make the partnership with the Broad happen. The Center was interested in finding paintings that document the use of new chemically unique art mediums created and refined from the 1950’s forward,” said Sarah Brandt, Studio School Manager and Assistant Curator at Midland Center for the Arts. “This exhibit showing the cross between chemistry and art would not have been possible without MSU and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in Lansing.”

The exhibition aligns with the 100th anniversary of the Midland section of the American Chemical Society. Collectively, all of the artworks in the exhibition illustrate how new scientific developments and innovation in the chemistry of paint provided an expanded palette that inspired modern and postmodern artists. Also showcased are the types of paints and materials used in the featured artworks.

Through the joint effort of the Office for Research and Innovation and the MSU Broad, the type of interdisciplinary collaboration between science and art that the exhibition demonstrates is also reflected in the values of Michigan State University. The Office of Research and Innovation is extending the life of this partnership through their high school summer internship program, in which the students specializing in writing visited the exhibition and were able to spend time learning more about how materials science is an important part of art creation.

Science Paints Our World: Chemistry & Art is at the Midland Center for the Arts through September 1.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad) is a dynamic contemporary art museum that serves as both a teaching institution and a cultural hub for East Lansing and the region. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. In 2017, the MSU Broad was awarded \$1 million from MSU Federal Credit Union in support of the Art Lab, an expansion across Grand River Avenue that provides increased access to and research of the permanent collection.

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: High school students from the Office of Research and Innovation's summer internship program engage with the art at Midland Center for the Arts.

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