Art loan program began with Stratton collection

Catherine N. Stratton collection. After a hiatus in the early 1970s, the program was reinstated in 1977 when Vera List donated 100 posters to the collection. Since the mid-1980s the List Center, with additional support from the Student Activities Committee, has acquired several new pieces each year, bringing the collection's total to more than 300 artworks. New works are displayed for a year on the third floor of the Student Center, after which they take their places in the main collection and become available for loan.

The display is well worth a visit to the gallery, aside from the potential of receiving a work of art to hang in your room for the year. Although designed as a simple rectangular space, the room is set up for an upcoming exhibit, "Critical Mass," marking the fiftieth anniversary of the detonation of the first atomic bomb. The temporary internal walls give some definition to what might otherwise be an onslaught of unrelated images, and enable a novelty that Platt refers to as "the '60s room," a sub-group of psychedelia that gets its own place within the larger main hall.

Apparently, the program is popular even outside of MIT. After delivering a talk recently at the Museum of Fine Arts, Platt was informed by two members of the audience that "our favorite show is the big print show in September." They asked him if the Center would do that show again this year. Fortunately for the students of MIT, it will.

For more information regarding the student art loan, call the List Visual Arts Center at 253-4400 or stop by the Hayden Gallery on the first floor of building E 15.