Partial view of Siren, 2016, Three-channel video installation with sound, 75 x 192 inches in diameter

**Hold Still**
Sculptures and Installations

List Gallery
Swarthmore College
November 8–December 15, 2018

Artist’s Talk:
Thurs. Nov. 8, 4:30 p.m.
Lang performing Arts Center

List Gallery reception follows:
5:30–7:00 p.m.

**Chorus**
Projections and Performance

North Campus Quad
Swarthmore College
Projections: November 5 – 8
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. each night
Performance: November 9
7:30–7:50 p.m.
Performance rain date: November 10, 6:30 p.m.

Robin Mandel’s artistic practice combines sculpture, video projections, and collaborations with musicians. Harmonizing traditional craftsmanship with innovative technology, Mandel challenges conventional notions about time, light, sound, and motion. These events and an accompanying catalog have been made possible by the William J. Cooper Foundation, Swarthmore College.

List Gallery Hours: Tues.–Sun., Noon–5:00 p.m.
Contact: apackar1@swarthmore.edu / 610.733.9771/Visit: www.swarthmore.edu/list-gallery
November 8 through December 15, 2018, the List Gallery will present *Hold Still*, a selection of recent sculptures and video projections by multi-media artist Robin Mandel. The artist will lecture about his work on Thursday, November 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the Lang Performing Arts Center Cinema. A List Gallery reception will follow, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

A key work in *Hold Still*, Robin Mandel's List Gallery exhibition, is *Siren* (2016), a work that explores relationships between breath, sound, music. Mandel recorded singers using rotating cameras and displays the footage by using a device he designed to rotate projectors. The variable motion of both the recordings and the projectors results in an unsteady equilibrium—a visual vibrato. As in many of Mandel's works, simultaneous projections alternate between motion and stillness; disjunction and harmony. As Elizabeth King writes in her essay for the accompanying catalog:

> The arrest is provisional and fleeting, almost as if she sings to hold steady. 
> . . . Three projections, each with a different solo, make up the installation. You might hear just one voice, occasionally all three—fugue, chord, harmony, or dissonance. Or silence. . . . Each face is captured and held aloft by its note, like a visiting ghost, before it spins away from your eye's grasp.

*Chorus (November 5–9, 2018)* consists of a series of projections and a performance designed to take place over five nights in the outdoor commons bordered by buildings where Mandel studied while at Swarthmore College: Kohlberg Hall, Science Center, Martin Hall, and Beardsley Hall. Mandel invited four Swarthmore College students to collaborate with him and created videos of the students singing single notes held steady for the length of their breath. *Chorus* consists of those projected images and voices, which build over four consecutive nights from a solo into a duet, trio, and quartet. On the fifth and final night, the student singers stand on the grassy commons, performing as an octet with their own projections, animating the surrounding stone facades. As List Gallery Director Andrea Packard, writes: "Projected more than a story high, Mandel's portraits of students appear monumental, yet the way each face is closely framed and each note is simply held expresses a humility and openness that are fundamental to learning and creativity. Collectively, sometimes harmonizing and sometimes dissonant, the students represent a larger conversation that embraces close listening, and communal engagement."

After graduating from Swarthmore in 1997, Mandel received an M.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design in 2005. Since then, he has exhibited his art in more than fifty exhibitions, including at the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA.; the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI, and the Wassaic Project, New York. He has also exhibited in Montreal, Venice, Barcelona, and Jerusalem. He is the recipient of more than a dozen awards, including grants from the Rhode Island Council on the Arts and residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Fine Arts Work Center, and Anderson Ranch Arts Center. He has taught art at the Rhode Island School of Design; the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Maine College of Art; and Colby College. Currently, he is Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.