SYMPOSIA

During 2021–2022, the School of Architecture hosted the annual J. Irwin Miller Symposium, *Object Lessons*.

This symposium, convened by Daniel Rose (1951) Visiting Assistant Professor Anthony Acciavatti, drew together a group of designers, artists, and scholars to engage with objects through the senses, a popular pedagogical method of imparting knowledge and ethical values. These object lessons synthesize material and meaning into something greater than the sum of their parts. It is quite literally an exercise for the pupil “in arranging and classifying objects; thus developing a higher faculty than that of simply observing their qualities,” as described by Elizabeth Mayo in *Lessons on Objects* (1832). First developed by Swiss education reformer and theorist Johann Pestalozzi in the late eighteenth century, object lessons became integral to the education practices pioneered by Friedrich Fröbel, Akshay Kumar Dutta, John Dewey, and Maria Montessori, to name just a few. Participants in the symposium devised a lesson from an object that rewards scrutiny and resists simple classification. By holding an object, weighing it, observing its texture, looking at its components, and perhaps tasting and smelling or listening to it, each speaker rendered an entire world of actions and processes that went into its making.

Speakers included:

Anthony Acciavatti
D. Graham Burnett
Danielle Choi
Gökçe Günel
Kajri Jain
Sylvia Lavin
Lan A. Li
Rahul Mehrotra
Nicholas de Monchaux
Amie Siegel
Adedoyin Teriba
Anthony Titus