The riveting Canadian conductor and soprano Barbara Hannigan, subject of the documentary I’m a Creative Animal, delivers the Elson Lecture on “Equilibrium.” Paine Concert Hall. (September 23)

Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra
harvardradcliffeorchestra.org
The student-managed, professionally conducted symphony orchestra opens its 212th season with Gustav Mahler’s monumental Ninth Symphony, his final completed work. Sanders Theatre. (October 5)

Exhibitions & Events
Harvard Museum of Natural History
hmnh.harvard.edu
A temporary special exhibit of the celebrated glass flowers, Fruits in Decay, features fascinatingly precise renditions of formerly edible objects. (Opens August 31)

Harvard Art Museums
harvardartmuseums.org
Winslow Homer: Eyewitness highlights illustrations that the American realist produced for Harper’s Weekly. (Opens August 31)

Through more than 40 works by a cross-section of global contemporary artists, the ambitious exhibit Crossing Lines, Constructing Home: Displacement and Belonging in Contemporary Art examines the concepts of both national, political, and cultural boundaries and “evolving hybrid spaces, identities, languages, and beliefs created by the movement of peoples.” (Opens September 6)

Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
peabody.harvard.edu
To help mark 2019 as the “Year of Indigenous Languages,” Mexican designer Gabriella Badillo, among others, presents her work during a program about “Maintaining Heritage Languages in Our Communities” (October 12). Badillo is also a featured guest for “Animated Tales for All,” a series of short films narrated in 68 different indigenous languages of Mexico. (October 14)

Rose Art Museum
brandeis.edu
Through photographs, prints, drawings, sculptures—and rarely seen archival materials—Gordon Matta-Clark: Anarchitect explores the role of an artist in activism and in chronicling homelessness and derelict urban environments, especially during the tumultuous 1970s. (Opens September 21)

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
decordova.org
Truthiness and the News highlights the evidentiary role of photography, from the first day of print newspapers to the current era of “alternative facts.” (Opens October 11)

RISD CRAFT
risdcraft.com
A smorgasbord of unique, cutting-edge works by more than a hundred of the school’s student and alumni artists, like Candy Barr, Susan Freda, and Ahrong

Staff Pick: Seeing Science

“Visual Science: The Art of Research,” opening September 20, explores how objects and images have long been used to prove or convey scientific principles. The works, drawn from collections and laboratories across the University, can “record fleeting observations, whether a painting of an animal glimpsed in the field, or an interaction between subatomic particles that lasts a fraction of a second,” the exhibit notes. “They can also make unseen things visible.”

Like vibrational patterns of sound. “Sand plate” images, based on experiments by eighteenth-century German physicist and musician Ernst Chladni, reveal how stroking a string instrument’s bow across the edge of a metal plate sprinkled with sand shifts the grains into variable designs that trace the vibrational waves.

Also on display at the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments (chsi.harvard.edu), gallery in the Science Center, is the picture of an electron spiraling in a high-powered magnetic field (at left), recorded at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, in Berkeley, California. (Lab founder Ernest Orlando Lawrence, Sc.D. ‘41, won the 1939 Nobel Prize in physics for inventing the atom-smashing cyclotron, a pivotal breakthrough in conducting high-energy physics.)

The “Mondrian” color-paper collage (above) is among the 1970s materials used by scientist Edwin H. Land ‘30, S.D. ’57, to develop his influential “Retinex Theory of Color Vision.” Land studied chemistry at Harvard, but dropped out and went on to invent Polaroid photography (and co-founded the eponymous Cambridge-based corporation; see Treasure, March-April 2017, page 76), which popularized the art form—arguably setting the stage for today’s image-driven digital revolution. ~N.P.B.