

# artspace

50 Orange Street artspacenh.org info@artspacenh.org  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510



**Artspace's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Apprenticeship Program:**  
***Stages of Kingdom and Exile***  
with Lead Artist Wardell Milan  
Friday, July 22 – Saturday, September 10, 2016

During the month of July, 18 teens from 8 New Haven public high schools will collaborate with New York City-based artist Wardell Milan (Yale MFA '04) to produce a larger-than-life body of work. These students were selected based on their unique commitments to the visual, performing and literary arts and their desire to explore the themes of Milan's ongoing photography-based series *Kingdom or Exile: Parisian Landscapes* (2013-present). Under Milan's tutelage, the apprentices will explore how social spaces shape and inform identity, gender and sexuality. Artspace's program is specifically designed to create a safe and accepting space where LGBTQ youth and mentors can meet, organize and collaborate, and also welcome teens who identify as LGBTQ, gender-non conforming or questioning, and their allies, through lively public programs over the span of the exhibition and beyond.

Milan will lead the students in exercises that mirror his studio process. Students will cull, cut and strategically assemble found images from personal photo albums and social media feeds with images from newspapers, journals, advertisements and popular media sources. The resulting social landscapes will blur the overall line between fact and fiction and call into question male/female, interior/exterior, top/bottom, private/public, present/past and subject/object binaries. During the course of the program, the students will build large-scale sets, which will also serve as backdrops for spoken-word and theater-based works. The sets will encourage the viewer to interact with and surrender to a space of ambiguity and gender fluidity.

Under the mentorship of theater artists Aaron Jafferis and Dexter Singleton (Creative Consciousness Theater, and Jerome Harris (Yale School of Drama) the students will devise and perform original text-based works for each stage set. They will present these at the opening reception on Friday, July 22, from 4-7pm, free and open to all. An awards ceremony for the students will take place at the reception, at 5 pm.

Throughout the run of the exhibition, from July 22 – September 10, Artspace invites community organizers to use this project and the Artspace Gallery as a platform for their work. We especially welcome meetings, performances or workshops that promote queer pride, education and the development of supportive settings for New Haven's LGBTQ youth. If your organization is interested

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in holding an event, please contact Artspace's Community Engagement Manager Tambira Armand, [tambira@artspacenh.org](mailto:tambira@artspacenh.org). To date, our community partners include: LGBTQ Youth Kickback, Literary Happy Hour, and Collective Consciousness Theater.

A companion exhibition of sculptural figures, *49+ (Orlando)*, by artist/critic Jonathan Weinberg will also be on view. Serving as a commemorative installation to those who were killed at the Pulse nightclub on June 12th, this exhibition underscores the significant work that still remains to be done to accept, honor, defend and protect those living in our most vulnerable communities.

Artspace wishes to thank TD Bank, The Seymour Lustman Fund, and generous individuals including Bill Aseltyn & Jeff Stryker, Robert Bienstock & Eder Errechín, Bob Buckholz & LizAnn Fontaine, Grace Brady, David Carter & Bob Parker, Joan Channick & Ruth Hein Schmitt, Jason Stanley & Njeri Thande, John Stuart Gordon & Justin Zaremby, Bill & Jean Graustein, The Marber Family, Ruby Melton & Gail McAvay, Michael Morand & Frank Mitchell, Sam & Martha Peterson, Len Suzio, Amy Wrzesniewski & Anthony Law, and Timothy Young & John Hill (*list in formation as of 6/24*).

For 30 years, Artspace has championed the ideas and concerns of local artists and communities. We continue to organize exhibitions that address the most urgent issues of our time, including the AIDS Crisis (*Interrupted Lives*, in 1991), the War on Terror (*Between Fear and Freedom*, 2002), Immigration (*Mythical Nation*, 2003), Globalization and the loss of manufacturing jobs in Connecticut, (*Factory Direct*, 2005), Climate Change (*Futurecast*, 2012), racial bias in the U.S. Criminal Justice system (*Arresting Patterns*, 2015), and in this exhibition, LGBTQ youth rights. Artspace is committed taking risks on behalf of local and regional artists to advance their careers, while quickening the pulse of our community.

## About the Artists:

**Wardell Milan** (b. 1977, Knoxville, Tennessee) is a Brooklyn based artist whose practice includes drawing, painting, photo-diorama and collage. He received his MFA in photography from Yale University in 2004, and his BFA from the University of Tennessee in 2001. His recent exhibitions include *The Charming Hour* at [David Nolan Gallery](#) in NYC, *Greater New York* at P.S.1 MoMA, *Kingdom or Exile: Parisian Landscapes* at the Savannah College of Art and Design and *Body Language* at The Studio Museum in Harlem. From 2006-07, Milan was a resident at The Studio Museum. His work can be found in various public collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Denver Art Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

**Jonathan Weinberg**, Ph. D. is a painter and art historian. He is the author of *Male Desire: the Homoerotic in American Art*; *Ambition and Love in American Art*; and *Speaking for Vice: Homosexuality in the Art of Charles Demuth, Marsden Hartley and the First-American Avant-Garde*. He has curated the exhibitions *Shared Intelligence: American Painting and the Photograph* at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum (with Barbara Buhler Lynes, 2011) and *The Piers: Art and Sex along the New York Waterfront* at the Leslie Lohman Museum (2012). A one-man retrospective of his paintings was on view at the Leslie Lohman Museum in 2009. His paintings are in public and private collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Jersey City Museum and the Montclair Art Museum. Currently he is a Visiting Critic at the Yale School of Art and a Lecturer at the Rhode Island School of Design.

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