

## Apprentice Experiences



**Badria Ahmed, Hillhouse High School:** I was happy to learn something new about art while making new friends.



**Arianna Alamo, Wilbur Cross High School and Educational Center for the Arts:** I liked the atmosphere of the SAP—it's not like a school art class; we have a lot of freedom here.



**Danny Amir, Metro Business Academy:** I enjoyed the process of everyone using paint and sharpies to create and fill-in our own designs.



**Tyler Carrillo-Waggoner, Guildford High School:** It was a great experience to work with other young artists.



**Jasmine Chevalier, Hillhouse High School:** I was surprised by how easy the process of silk-screening was.



**Ian Davidson, Sound School:** I really liked the creativity of the whole group [of summer apprentices].



**Shawn Duplessie, Metro Business Academy:** Before this program I didn't know how involved the process of silk-screening was.



**Jazmin Iturbide, Metro Business Academy:** Silk-screening is different—I like it because it's not what everyone else does.



**Raindrew Jasiorkowski, Sound School:** Everyone [in the program] was shy at first, but art helps spark conversations.



**Shanti Madison, Hamden High School and Educational Center for the Arts:** I'm happy that I got to spend first-hand time with a working artist. Working with Felandus helped break down my pre-conceived notions about what artists are like.



**Olivia Marciano, Shelton High School and Educational Center for the Arts:** I really loved learning the entire process of silk-screening and the team effort for the project was great.



**Stefany Mitchell, Joseph A. Foran High School and Educational Center for the Arts:** It was cool to work with a Master Artist and to see how he works.



**Kira Podgwaite, Cooperative Arts High School:** Coming up with ideas was fantastic; it was like a big jumble of creativity.



**Isaiah Rodgers, Metro Business Academy:** Silk-screening was a great thing to learn for later in life.



**Juan Velazquez, Metro Business Academy:** It was surprising that we were taught once and then we were able to work on our own. We can actually use what we're learning...it will open job opportunities for us.



**Aysha Younas, Hamden High School and Educational Center for the Arts:** It's really cool that a drawing can be transformed into painted artwork.

## Through September 15, 2012

### **William DeLottie: "in three states of mind"**

This show, organized by VAC member Eric Litke, will present previously unseen video installations and a mural-sized work on paper by Connecticut artist William DeLottie, who has been exhibiting regionally and nationally for over 30 years. DeLottie's work, which is typically raw and nonhierarchical, was included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial. DeLottie's art continues to explore notions of collage imbued with media imagery, as well as a very personal lexicon of forms both abstract and pictographic in nature. DeLottie's range of materials, including pure pigment, metallic sheets, and vinyl bags, give an unpredictable and enigmatic quality to his works on paper, while his video installations frequently delve into a range of both narrative and abstract subjects.

### **Interventions**

Exhibition organizers Kristen Erickson and Erin Riley, both on the arts faculty at Greenwich Academy, have mined the treasures of Artspace's Flatfile for their exhibition, *Interventions*. The Flatfile, Artspace's rotating collection of works on paper, celebrates a diverse collection of local and regional artists. The works featured in this exhibition will focus on human interventions in nature—moments where the man-made and natural worlds collide, or instances where a camera lens controls or distorts a view of nature. Other works will delve into staged scenes that appear "real" at first glance, drawing the viewer into the constructed worlds. Artists to be shown include Hannah Cole, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Monastra, Robert Morris, Lori Nix, Jessica Schwind, Jeff Slomba, Joseph Smolinski, and Bradley Wollman.

### **The Lot: Flossing the Lot**

Artist Leeza Meksin's recently completed project, *Flossing the Lot*, takes advantage of Artspace's outdoor exhibition space at 812 Chapel Street. The bright, dynamic installation of Spandex and found objects is the third, and final, piece in a series of site-specific projects by Meksin; previous installations were mounted in St. Louis and New York City.

### **The Crown Street Window: Circulation**

Mak's piece continues Artspace's utilization of the highly visible Crown Street Window. The work, composed of felt, plaster, wire, latex tubing, and more, makes reference to the imagined circulatory system of the Chamberlain Building.

# Artspace's 12th Annual Summer Apprenticeship Program



Occupy Main Street  
July 27–September 15, 2012



# Artspace SAP Brochure 2012

## Felandus Thames with Artspace Summer Apprentices *Occupy Main Street*



Each summer Artspace seeks out an artist and a group of New Haven high school students to work together in the spirit of collaboration. Over the course of three weeks this group coalesces into a creative unit, learning new art skills and completing an intricate installation in the Artspace galleries. The project looks to provide new experiences for both the artists and the students, and to facilitate the creation of a work of art that becomes a meaningful part of the legacy of all those involved. Though the task may seem daunting, each year, without fail, Artspace, an artist, and a talented group of young people make it happen.

Artspace is proud to say that this, our 12th year, has been a joy for all involved, as Harlem-based artist Felandus Thames has served as the Master Artist. Over the course of three weeks in July, Thames and his 16 student apprentices have collaborated on a silk-screening installation that explores group-identity and branding. After naming themselves the Sharpie Squad, the apprentices set to work creating logos and describing their creative visions to one another. These drawings morphed into silk-screened logos, which the students, working in pairs, brought to life on the long wall of Artspace.

### A chat with Felandus Thames:

#### *What was your initial plan for this project?*

My initial plan was to expose the students to innovative artists, the process of branding, ideas around self-imaging, and screen-printing.

#### *How did the project morph over time?*

In our daily lectures and talks the project's focus has shifted slightly to focus more on artists that complicate their self-images. I've tried to expose the students to artists whose practice includes performance, music, and video.

#### *The project is called "Occupy Main Street"—what inspired this title and concept?*

The Occupy Movement is obviously one of the main influences for the title—for this project, the idea has been focused more on how the students could declare ownership of their self-images, or how they could get in the "driver's seat" regarding how their generation is imaged or viewed in pop culture.

#### *What was it like to work with a group of high school apprentices?*

Anytime an artist works with kids it's definitely a learning experience. I have taught several similar programs but each differed based on the socio-economic composition of the group, their experiences, and a broad range of skill levels. There is a definite sense of accountability that I personally feel as I teach; this accountability has a lot to do with wanting to help foster the next generation of artists and thinkers.

#### *Do you think that the students changed or grew by participating in the Summer Apprenticeship Program?*

I have been seeing a great bit of growth with many of the students, particularly in the area of what can be understood as Art. Also, many of them are gaining confidence in their own ability to make Art.

#### *What have been the most rewarding and challenging aspects of this program?*

The reward for me is always the satisfaction of the sense of accomplishment the students feel at the end of each print. The most challenging part has been trying to understand their individual skill levels, and what motivates each of the students, in such a short period of time.

#### *Did you learn anything from the students?*

I learned a lot about how to "unthink" my process.

#### *How is this project related to identity and branding?*

The entire project engages how branding surrounds us and shapes our self-image.

#### *What aspects of branding did the students respond to most?*

The negative self-image is consistently one that most people respond to.

#### *How has this project been similar to and different from your own artistic practice?*

I tried to keep this project distant from my own studio practice and to focus more on the process first. My studio practice has morphed slightly to a more object-based practice.



Felandus Thames is a cross-disciplinary artist engaged with questions of race, power, and identity. Born in Jackson, Mississippi, he received a B.A. in Painting and Graphic Design from Jackson State University before completing his M.F.A. in Painting/Printmaking at the Yale University School of Art in 2010. Thames has participated in a residency at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center in Jackson and has shown in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. He currently works in Harlem, New York, and is represented by the Tilton Gallery and the Jenkins Johnson Gallery.



## Upcoming Events

October 5–22, 2012

### *City-Wide Open Studios*

Explore the artistic riches of New Haven with City-Wide Open Studios! This large-scale convening of visual artists from across Connecticut in studios and temporary spaces around New Haven will take place over three weekends in October 2012. A central hub exhibition at Artspace will feature one representative work from each participating artist. To celebrate the festival's 15th year, its Crystal Anniversary, we will feature art and events on the theme crystal. Over 300 artists and 10,000 visitors are expected for Connecticut's most exciting visual arts festival. Details and registration can be found at [cwoos.org](http://cwoos.org). **Registration deadline is September 1, 2012.**

### Artspace

50 Orange Street / New Haven, Connecticut 06510 / [artspacenh.org](http://artspacenh.org) / 203.772.2709

**Gallery Hours:** Wednesday & Thursday, 12:00–6:00 PM;  
Friday & Saturday, 12:00–8:00 PM. The Lot is open 24/7.

Artspace would like to thank the following organizations for their support and funding: The Andy Warhol Foundation, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the City of New Haven's Office of Economic Development, the United Way of Greater New Haven, Public Allies, the Seymour Lustman Memorial Fund, corporate sponsors, and individual friends of Artspace.

