

FALL 2015



CREATIVE FUSION

The Cleveland Foundation's International Artist-in-Residence Program

Fall 2015 Represented Nations: Chile Iran Taiwan Thailand Vietnam

AN UPDATE ON THE CREATIVE FUSION 2015 FALL CLASS

I would like to open this newsletter by first recognizing Kathleen Cervený and how special the Creative Fusion program is due to her vision and leadership. It is truly an honor to follow her in directing this program.

I have begun doing site visits to meet with each artist and host organization about their projects and have been very impressed with how many events and resources each artist has taken advantage of. I have enjoyed listening to the insights each of the artists has about Cleveland and how the residency is shaping their thinking and work. Many of the artists have traveled outside of Cleveland, learning about other U.S. cities such as Detroit, Pittsburgh and New York. Most impressive is how many events and resources each artist has taken advantage of here in Cleveland.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many presentations and exhibitions that will take place at the end of the residency in November as we and the public get the opportunity to see the fruits of the artistic labor of the past few months.

Lastly, I would like to thank Sally Winter and Debbie Slocum for making this a seamless transition for the visiting artists, the host organizations and for me.

Lillian Kuri

Program Director for Arts & Urban Design, Cleveland Foundation

Adolfo Bimer - Chile

Hosted by [Cleveland Print Room](#)

Adolfo has been busy working with Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students on a variety of projects.

He recently visited Case Elementary School where he helped students create self-portraits using instant photography.



The portraits will be part of a culminating public art installation, called [Snaps n' Words](#), in conjunction with Neighborhood Connections and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood. Adolfo is also working with 5th graders at Walton Elementary School as part of the MetroHealth School Health Program.

Adolfo's work at MetroHealth has included meeting with radiologists in the burn unit at the hospital. He hopes to incorporate images from X-rays, MRIs and CT scans into the art he is creating during his residency. He recently attended a support group meeting for burn survivors at MetroHealth where he learned about their experiences firsthand.

Adolfo remains engaged with the local art community. He attended a fundraiser for the Cleveland Print Room and recently visited the Akron Art Museum.

Pictured: Adolfo and Cleveland Print Room artist liaison John W. Carlson at Walton Elementary



Nicolás Grum - Chile

Hosted by [The Sculpture Center](#)

Nico and his wife Isabel have been deeply engaged in their projects with local elementary school and college students. They are developing a student art collection at Scranton, a CMSD elementary school, and have begun a five-week art project with sculpture students at Cleveland State University.

The couple has also taken time to explore the regional art scene. They spent a recent weekend in the Pittsburgh area with fellow Creative Fusion artist Adolfo where they visited galleries and museums, including Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, and socialized with local artists. They also took a trip to Detroit to attend the Sculpture Center's sixth annual *SculptureX Symposium*, a teaching and networking event convening regional art institutions. The symposium was held at Wayne State University and included special exhibitions in outlying neighborhoods, non-profit galleries and art institutions including the museum and graduate studios at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Back in Cleveland, Nico is working on his art and preparing to move into a new studio space, which will be open to the public, in the main gallery of The Sculpture Center when renovations are complete.

Pictured: Nico working with students at Cleveland State University

Nguyen Manh Hung - Vietnam

Hosted by [Negative Space Gallery](#)

In recent weeks, Hung has continued to create new artworks and immerse himself in the Cleveland community. He is diligently working towards his goal of completing 10 paintings ahead of his art show, [Where is the Enemy](#), at Negative Space on Thursday, Nov. 5th at 7 p.m. In addition to painting, Hung experimented with a different medium at a recent printmaking class at Zygote Press.



At Negative Space, Hung has actively participated in gallery events. He is a talented guitarist and enjoys playing in "jam nights" at the gallery. Hung has also been exploring Northeast Ohio. He picked apples at Patterson's Fruit Farm, ate

falafel at the West Side Market, hunted for treasures at Unique Thrift Store and enjoyed his second visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Pictured: Hung painting



Behrang Samazadegan - Iran

Hosted by [Zygote Press](#)

Behrang has been busy sharing his expertise with student artists of all experience levels. He is teaching kids at the Boys and Girls Club at St. Luke's Manor about how to apply color in surprising and interesting ways in their art. He particularly enjoys the delight and wonder expressed by the kids when they experience the process of mixing colors for the first time.

Behrang works regularly with the advanced painting classes taught by Tony Ingrisano, Corrie Slawson and Lane Cooper at the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA). In these sessions, Behrang provides insight and critical dialogue about the students' work. He has also been a guest artist in criticism and theory classes at CIA.

In addition to his work with students, Behrang recently joined fellow Creative Fusion artists to speak at a "Lunch on Fridays" lecture at CIA. He is also busy preparing for the opening of his exhibition, [Heading Utopia](#), at Zygote Press on Nov. 6th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Pictured: Behrang at the Boys and Girls Club at St. Luke's Manor

Kop Thammapruxa - Thailand

Hosted by [Rainey Institute](#)

During the second month of her residency, Kop has worked with Clevelanders young and old, sharing the culture of Thailand with them in a variety of ways.

Kop has been busy creating masks and other ceramics projects with Rainey students in the pottery studio.



The students at Rainey also have learned about Kop's home in Thailand and what life is like for children there. In addition, Kop has worked with seniors at Judson Manor and recently began leading a movement workshop for them. Most of the participants are in wheelchairs, but they enjoy the opportunity to engage in creative movement activities.

In her free time, Kop has regularly attended Aikido classes at Asian Town Plaza. In Thailand, she teaches the martial art to children and adults. Kop has also enjoyed exploring local attractions and events in Cleveland. She attended a Cleveland Orchestra concert, a performance by GroundWorks Dance Studio and a Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game.

Pictured: Kop creating a pumpkin with Rainey Students



Kuen-lin Tsai - Taiwan

Hosted by [Waterloo Arts](#)

Kuen-lin has been busy designing the large public art sculpture that he plans to build in a 30-foot tall steel tower on Waterloo Road. Much of the sculpture will be crafted from PVC pipes and fittings, a material he has worked with extensively in Asia.

Procuring PVC supplies proved to be more of a challenge in the U.S. than in Asia, but through mail order, trips to Home Depot and an excursion to a plumbing supply store in Akron, Kuen-lin was finally able to collect the parts he needed and begin construction. He is also preparing sets of PVC for students at CMSD's Oliver H. Perry Elementary School. The students will visit the studio and participate in a sculpture workshop. Kuen-lin then plans to incorporate the students' sculptures into his larger tower sculpture.

In addition to his work on the sculpture, Kuen-lin showcased his culinary artistry at a recent Creative Fusion cohort dinner where he made sushi for the group. He also got into the seasonal spirit by learning to make a quintessential American dish - apple pie!

Pictured: Kuen-lin making sushi

ABOUT CREATIVE FUSION

The Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion artist residency program partners international artists with local arts organizations with a goal of maximizing the cultural exchange between the artists and the community.

Since launching the Creative Fusion program in 2010, the Cleveland Foundation has brought more than 60 artists from countries including Chile, China, India, Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, Uganda, Pakistan, Egypt, Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria, and Vietnam. The artists have worked in depth with more than 20,000 elementary, high school, and college students and their art has touched thousands of Greater Cleveland residents through performances, exhibitions, lectures, and personal encounters.

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