

FALL 2015



Fall 2015 Represented Nations: Chile Iran Taiwan Thailand Vietnam

## ANNOUNCING CREATIVE FUSION FALL CLASS: 2015

Each time one of our Creative Fusion residencies ends, we think we will never see as wonderful a group of artists again. Each time we are wrong. As you will see from this first newsletter for the Fall 2015 residency, our international guests have jumped into their work with both feet, connecting with the community and beginning to explore their own creative projects. I am always amazed at how quickly the artists bond - with each other and with their hosts and the local artist community. I can't wait to see what each of them will produce during their short but intense three-month stay here.

I must note, in this first newsletter, that it will be my last as Director of the Creative Fusion initiative. After nearly 25 years, I am retiring from the Cleveland Foundation to pursue more fully my own work as an artist/poet, and perhaps reconnect with my former discipline of ceramics. I have had the privilege of managing this program for six years, supporting more than 60 artists from countries all over the world. It has been a great gift in my life. Now I will be able to experience their work more freely as a fellow artist, rather than as an administrator, and I look forward to that.

Sally Winter will continue her warm, generous and supremely competent work as Artist Liaison, and Lillian Kuri, a fierce champion for individual artists and creative communities, will be your point person at the foundation going forward. She will be terrific.

I offer my best and warmest wishes to all.

-Kathleen Cerveney

## **Adolfo Bimer - Chile**

Hosted by [Cleveland Print Room](#)

In his first few weeks in Cleveland, Adolfo has begun the community outreach aspect of his residency by touring the facilities of MetroHealth, where he will participate in their Artist-in-Residence program, in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). Adolfo will soon begin working with 5th graders at Walton Elementary School. The children will create art based on self-portraiture and identity, while MetroHealth's School Health Program offers health services to children on-site.

Adolfo has also been engaging with the Cleveland Print Room community and broader Cleveland arts scene. He met with local photographer and Cleveland Print Room board member Halim Ina to discuss Halim's recent three-month photography trip to Cuba. He attended the opening of the Print Room's *Surroundings* exhibition, which drew nearly 400 attendees, including local artists, curators, students and board members. Adolfo has visited a number of local arts organizations, galleries and museums including the 78th Street Studios and MOCA, where he viewed the work of Nevet Yitzhak and met the artist.



*Adolfo at breakfast with photographer and CPR board member Halim Ina*



*Nico creating clay sculptures*

## **Nicolás Grum - Chile**

Hosted by [The Sculpture Center](#)

In their first weeks in Cleveland, Nico Grum and his wife, choreographer Isabel Torres, have already begun collaborative projects with local schools and institutions. Nico and Isabel started an art project with seventh graders at Scranton, a CMSD school in Tremont. Under their guidance, the students will develop a *Scranton School Art Collection*, which will incorporate art objects they have made, sound and video recordings, cherished items from their own homes and any other sorts of "recordings" of memories and influences about themselves and their school they want to preserve.

Nico met with Irina Koukhanova of Cleveland State University's art department to discuss a four-week project with her sculpture class of 26 students. In the well-equipped CSU studio, Nico is creating small clay sculptures and making

plans for bronze and aluminum castings, all media in which he has never before worked. Isabel recently met with the art director of the Cleveland Sight Center where she plans to choreograph a new dance and performance work with sight-impaired teenagers who visit the center.

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## Nguyen Manh Hung - Vietnam

Hosted by [Negative Space Gallery](#)

The multi-talented Hung has enjoyed working - and playing - at Negative Space since beginning his residency there. He has already finished three small oil-on-canvas paintings in the studio and performed alongside local musicians at Negative Space's monthly Open Mic night. Hung also spent time visiting Cleveland's art museums. He is particularly excited to conduct research at the Cleveland Museum of Art, where the free admission will allow him to visit as frequently as he wants.

Hung recently traveled to Chicago to attend the Art Expo and visit friends in the city. During his visit, he gave a lecture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where one of his friends is a professor of art history. At the Art Expo, Hung met up with his friend and fellow artist Hank Willis Thomas, who introduced him to a number of people involved in the Chicago art scene.



*Hung working on a sketch*



*Behrang working with Rebekah Wilhelm*

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## Behrang Samazadegan - Iran

Hosted by [Zygote Press](#)

Since his arrival, Behrang has enjoyed a number of activities at a variety of arts organizations in Cleveland. He attended an event organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art's Bellwether program; an exhibition at local gallery 2731 Prospect; Nevet Yitzhak's artist talk and exhibition at MOCA; a Third Fridays event at the 78th Street Studios and Walk All Over Waterloo.

At Zygote Press, Behrang has been busy connecting with other visiting artists and participating in events. He was recently joined by two artists from Germany, Tony Franz and Svenja Wichmann, who will be in residency at Zygote through October 24th. Behrang also met Adrienne Lichliter,

a visiting artist from Dallas, and participated in her non-toxic wood lithography workshop at Zygote. During Zygote's FREE THE INK Open House, Behrang conducted photo demonstrations with visitors from the Sparx City Hop tour. As his residency continues, Behrang looks forward to working with Corrie Slawson's senior painting students at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

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## **Kop Thammapruxa - Thailand**

Hosted by [Rainey Institute](#)

Shortly after arriving in Cleveland, Kop spent Labor Day weekend attending community events in northeast Ohio including the Cleveland Air Show and the Geauga County Fair. She also visited the Cleveland Museum of Art and MOCA, and has been exploring the east side of Cleveland on her bicycle.

As a theatre artist and Ph.D. student of peacebuilding, Kop is interested in how theatre can contribute to the process of conflict transformation, particularly on a personal level. She provides personal storytelling workshops and turns the stories into plays. Kop's artistic talents are also expressed through Akido and ceramic mask-making.



*Kop working with Rainey students*

Kop has begun the process of connecting with Rainey staff and students, and is teaching the Rainey community about the art and culture of Thailand. She recently launched a series of classes at Rainey that will include theatre exercises, visual arts and puppets, and storytelling. She also is working with students to create Halloween decorations. Expanding her outreach beyond Rainey, Kop will conduct a series of workshops at Judson Manor and Judson Park that will include movement, dance and yoga.



*Kuen-Lin at the Cleveland Air Show*

## **Kuen-lin Tsai - Taiwan**

Hosted by [Waterloo Arts](#)

After a long plane ride from Taiwan, Kuen-lin arrived in Cleveland and settled into his Cleveland Heights apartment with his roommate Hung. After a week of touring the city and resetting his internal clock -Taipei is 12 hours ahead of Cleveland - Kuen-lin began thinking about the shape his art would take during his residency here.

Kuen-lin works in a range of different media and has created and installed a number of public art sculptures in Asia, so the challenge of designing a

sculpture for the large steel Waterloo Tower piqued his interest. In addition to concentrating on this public art sculpture, Kuen-lin has enjoyed cooking with the other artists, visiting the Cleveland Museum of Art and touring Cleveland's maker spaces. He is taking a brief hiatus in New York City to attend a friend's gallery opening and will begin building the sculpture when he returns to Cleveland.

## 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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