

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



It has been a wonderful and impactful Fall 2015 Creative Fusion residency – from the caliber of the artists' solo exhibitions to the far-reaching impact on the youth whose lives have been enriched through interaction with new ideas and cultures. In addition to the events and exhibitions, Kuen-lin Tsai completed a large-scale installation titled *Treasure House* (pictured left) that will remain in the Waterloo district for the coming year.

I want extend an invitation to the Cleveland community to join us for a unique pop-up exhibition titled [United Nonsense](#) that is a free and open to the public from 5 to 9 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 21st at the ArtCraft Building (2550 Superior Ave., 6th floor - enter through Cleveland Print Room)

*United Nonsense* is a collaboration of 14 artists from, or passing through, Cleveland. Generated by five of the international artists from the Fall 2015 Creative Fusion cohort (Nicolás Grum and his partner Isabel Torres, Behrang Samadzadegan, Nguyen Manh Hung and Adolfo Bimer), the exhibition will also showcase artists from the local art scene who interacted or worked with the international artists during their short three-month stay in the city.

I want to thank all of the artists and host organizations for the risk-taking, engagement and collaboration that makes this program such a success.

**Lillian Kuri**

*Program Director for Arts & Urban Design, Cleveland Foundation*

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## Adolfo Bimer - Chile

Hosted by [Cleveland Print Room](#)

In the final weeks of his residency, Adolfo has been busy preparing his work for a number of exhibitions. [SCANS](#), his solo exhibition at Cleveland Print Room, opened on November 6th and will be on display through November 25th. Adolfo will also show his work at [United Nonsense](#), the pop-up group exhibition taking place tomorrow. Even after he leaves Cleveland, one of Adolfo's works will go on display as part of *Pattern & Design*, an exhibition at the BAYarts gallery in March.



In addition to preparing for exhibitions, Adolfo continues to visit with local students. He recently spent two days working with students at Lake Erie Ink and talking with them about his art and life in Chile. In his free time, Adolfo attended dinner parties and events including a potluck with more than 50 artists on Cleveland's East Side, a dinner hosted by the Cleveland Print Room and SPACES Gallery's fall fundraiser. He visited Amish Country with the other Creative Fusion artists, spent a day at Oberlin's Allen Memorial Art Museum and even took a trip to New York City.

***Pictured: Adolfo with a student from Lake Erie Ink***

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## Nicolás Grum - Chile

Hosted by [The Sculpture Center](#)

Nico's solo exhibition, [The History of Power](#), opened in The Sculpture Center's Main Gallery on November 13th. The exhibition showcases the body of work Nico created during his residency in Cleveland, consisting largely of miniature sculptures and models that explore metaphors of societal power structures. The exhibition will be on display through December 19th in the Sculpture Center's Main Gallery.

Nico has also been busy working with local college and elementary school students. He led a multi-week workshop with 27 students in Irina Koukhanova's introduction to sculpture class at Cleveland State University (CSU). The workshop sessions focused on the relationship between sculpture and the social and political environment, and the students worked in groups to create four public outdoor sculptures.

Nico and his partner Isabel recently finished their Scranton Art Collection project with the 7th graders at Scranton Elementary School. After much artistic exploration, the students decided to express their memories and sentiments about their school and neighborhood in the form of a large ceramic work, which was fired in the kiln at CSU's sculpture studio.

***Pictured: One of Nico's miniature sculptures***

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## Nguyen Manh Hung - Vietnam

Hosted by [Negative Space Gallery](#)

After months of hard work, Hung celebrated the culmination of his residency at the opening of his solo exhibition, *Where is the Enemy*, at Negative Space. Attendees were impressed with the body of work and quality of the paintings and prints Hung created during his relatively short time in Cleveland. Hung also showcased his musical talent that evening when he played alongside the event's performing act, Taylor Lamborn.



After the successful opening of his exhibition, Hung was able to have some fun. He met new friends while gallery-hopping, supported fellow Creative Fusion artists at their own exhibition events and visited friends in New York City. Hung also left a lasting mark on the Cleveland landscape by helping to design and create a bar top for a local restaurant.

***Pictured: Hung in front of a sign for his exhibition at Negative Space***

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## Behrang Samadzadegan - Iran

Hosted by [Zygote Press](#)

Behrang continues to visit local schools and speak to audiences around Greater Cleveland, sharing stories about his art and personal experiences.

He recently visited Sarah Marcus' 11th grade creative writing class at St. Martin de Porres. The class will be reading *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, an autobiographical graphic novel about Satrapi's experience growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Behrang's visit was particularly timely, as much of his exhibition at Zygote Press, [Heading Utopia](#), responds to his similar experience.

Behrang has also worked with college students, delivering a lecture at the University of Akron and participating in critiques at the Cleveland Institute of Art. **Tomorrow, November 21st at 10:30 a.m., Behrang will deliver an artist talk, [Breakfast with Behrang](#), at Zygote Press** where he will talk about his exhibition and Creative Fusion residency experience.

***Pictured: Behrang speaking to students at St. Martin de Porres***

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## Kop Thammapruxsa - Thailand

Hosted by [Rainey Institute](#)

As a theater artist, Kop has seen the impact masks can have on performers of all ages. When actors put on a mask, they adopt the facial expression portrayed by the mask. The mask reduces the actors' inhibitions and allows them to connect with the audience without speaking.



Kop explored the effect of masks with the students at Rainey. She created five colorful masks, each showing different facial expressions, using clay molds, paper mâché and paint. The children enjoyed getting into character while performing with the masks. Kop also brought the masks to Judson Manor, where she has been conducting creative movement workshops with the residents there. In the final workshop, the seniors performed in the masks and thoroughly enjoyed the

experience. The mask performances were a fun project to wrap up the work Kop has done at Rainey and Judson throughout her residency, connecting with Clevelanders ranging in age from 5 to 102.

**Pictured: Rainey students enjoying Kop's paper mâché masks**



## Kuen-lin Tsai - Taiwan

Hosted by [Waterloo Arts](#)

The end of October was an intense time of construction for Kuen-lin as he worked to complete his public art sculpture, the *Treasure House*, in time for its unveiling on November 6th.

Kuen-lin constructed elements of the sculpture in the Waterloo Arts gallery and outside on the front patio, allowing visitors and community members to watch his progress. During their visit to Kuen-lin's studio, 6th grade students from Oliver H. Perry Elementary School created PVC branches that were also incorporated into the final sculpture. Installing the 30-ft. sculpture required a bit of problem-solving and the help of other artists and Collinwood residents who volunteered their time, expertise and tools to assist Kuen-lin.

In addition to completing the *Treasure House*, Kuen-lin has continued to host a series of Taiwanese film screenings at Waterloo Arts and built a website using a new platform he learned about during his residency. In his free time he attended a basketball game at Cleveland State, saw a performance by Groundworks DanceTheater and took a stroll around Lakeview Cemetery.

**Pictured: Students from Oliver H. Perry Elementary School create branches from PVC pipes**

## 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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