

Two local artists selected for prestigious Stutz Residency Program

Residency is among largest grants to an individual artist in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 22, 2008) – Local artists **Mark Pack** and **William Denton Ray** have been selected as the 2008-2009 Stutz Residents, which entitles them to free studio space and utilities in the Stutz Building for one year. Valued at \$6,000 per artist, the residency is one of the largest grants to an individual artist in the state.

Pack, 31, is a contemporary painter who defines his artistic process as one of cultivation rather than manufacture. He received his BFA in Painting from Northern Illinois University in 2001 and his MFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004, graduating with honors. Since then, Mark has been in numerous juried exhibitions, including a group show at the University of Mary Washington that was juried by Dr. Jonathon Binstock, curator of contemporary art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. He and his wife live downtown.

Ray, 34, is a painter and graphic designer who utilizes graphic and traditional methods to create unique visual experiences. He studied art at the Columbus College of Art and Design, the University of Indianapolis and Herron School of Art at IUPUI. His work was recently honored as Best in Show at Allotropy and he was commissioned by the Arts Council of Indianapolis to produce a picture window in the Chase Building. He is active in the local arts community, participating regularly in such events as Oranje, Masterpiece in a Day and Visual Fringe. He is the senior designer at ExpoDesign and lives with his wife and children on the south side.

Funding for the program comes from proceeds from the association's annual open house. The 2009 Stutz Studio Open House is April 24 and 25. In addition to the open house, the association hosts monthly First Friday events at the Stutz Art Space Gallery and a holiday show on Nov. 21.

Since its inaugural year in 1996, the residency program has provided in-kind contributions of more than \$90,000 to 15 local artists. Previous residents are Ginny Taylor Rosner, Jay Parnell, David Kleeman, Kate Oberreich, Kevin Smola, Ismaila "Izo" Nidaye, Stephanie Robertson, Larry Endicott, Kyle Ragsdale, Jan Zoya, Susan Watt Grade, Emily Kennerk and Greg Hull.

The Stutz Artists Association is one of the largest associations of working artists in Indiana. It exists to encourage its member artists and to promote their work.

The historic Stutz Business Center is located at 1060 North Capitol Avenue on an entire city block in downtown Indianapolis. The 400,000-square-foot former car factory was renovated in the early 1990s and its studios and office space are now home to more 80 artists, sculptors, photographers, designers, architects and craftsmen.

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