



Two local artists selected for prestigious Stutz Residency Program

Residency is among largest grants to an individual artist in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 18, 2012) – Local artists Lauren Kussro and Heather Stamenov have been selected as the 2012-2013 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.

Lauren Kussro

Lauren Kussro attended Herron School of Art & Design earning a BFA with a concentration in painting and printmaking. She attended the University of Tennessee earning an MFA with a concentration in print making. She currently teaches printmaking at Herron School of Art & Design.

Kussro says, "The studio will help me explore the use of created environments that place the viewer in an arena where beauty is relevant and acceptable and is used to evoke emotions such as joy, hope, and yearning. This takes intense effort, focus and concentration having a studio will help explore installation in a large-scale format."

Heather Stamenov

Heather Stamenov received two bachelors degrees, one in Art Education and one in Fine Art with a focus in painting from Herron School of Art & Design. She continued to work in painting, printmaking, drawing, photography and video at the University of Connecticut where she received an MFA. She currently teaches at Christel House Academy and is also an adjunct for foundations at Herron School of Art & Design.

In using the studio space Stamenov says, "Conceptually I will expand my ideas, my understanding of what I want to communicate in my work through visual exploration. I have a clear personal mindset that directs my process: an interest in the body, human behavior and social interactions."

About the Stutz Residency Program

Funding for the residency program comes from proceeds from the association's annual open house in April. In addition, the association hosts monthly First Friday events, including open studios from noon to 5 p.m. and Stutz Art Space exhibition openings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Since its inaugural year in 1996, the residency program has provided in-kind contributions of more than \$132,000 to 24 local artists. Previous residents include Emily Budd, Joseph Crone, Mallory Marty, Brian Myers, Lydia Burris, Patrick Flaherty, Mark Pack, William Denton Ray, Jay Parnell, Kate Oberreich, Kevin Smola, Stephanie Robertson, Larry Endicott, Ginny Taylor Rosner, David Kleeman, Kyle Ragsdale, Susan Watt Grade, Emily Kennerk and Greg Hull.

About the Stutz Artists Association

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.

About the Stutz Business Center

The historic Stutz Business Center is at 212 West 10th Street 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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