CURATING COMMEMORATION

POIESIS REMEDY

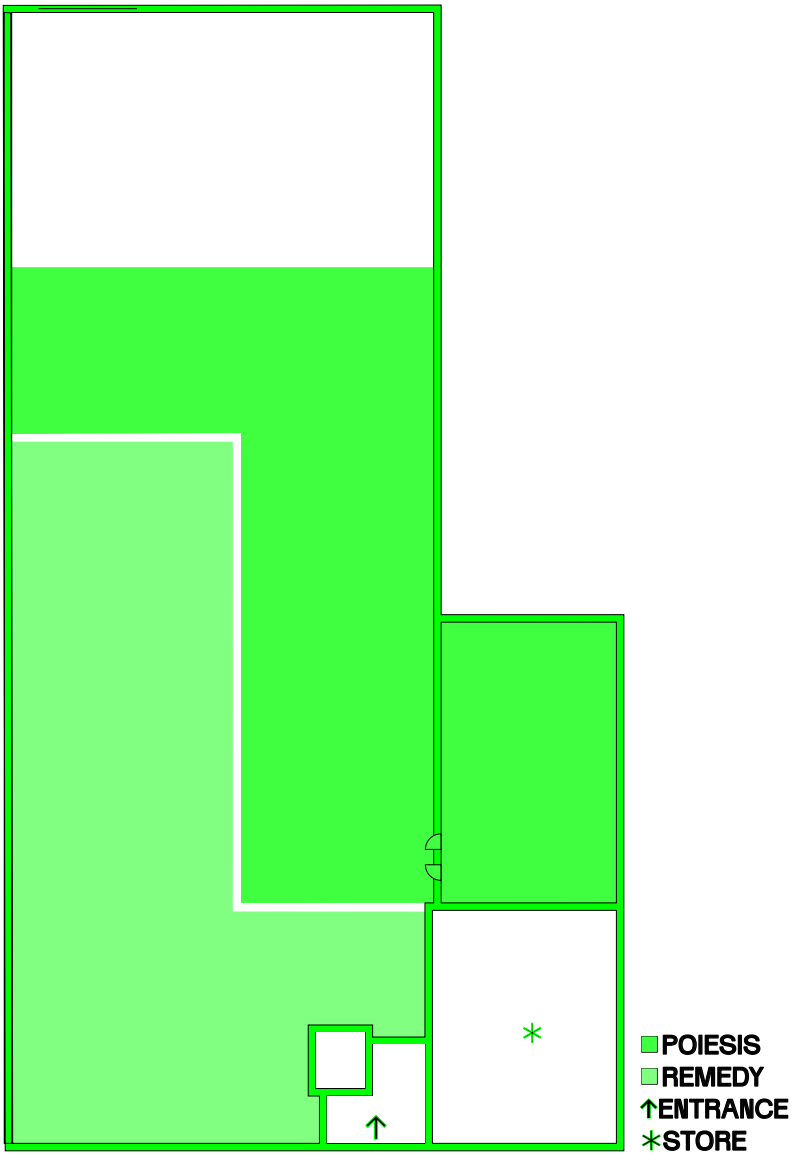
Curated by Melaine Ferdinand-King & Joel Rosario Tapia



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PROVIDENCE BIENNIAL
FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

WATERFIRE ARTS CENTER



CURATING COMMEMORATION: POIESIS / REMEDY
Exhibition ground plan
WaterFire Arts Center

The exhibition, developed by the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art working in partnership with WaterFire Providence through WaterFire Arts Center, the host venue, is located on the Indigenous lands of Woonasquatucket—at the head of the tidal River. We recognize and honor the Narragansett, Pokanoket, Niantic, Manissean, and Nipmuc Nations who are and have been the stewards of the lands known today as Rhode Island.

The Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art
Contextualizing *Curating Commemoration: Poiesis / Remedy*

The original intent of the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art, incorporated as a nonprofit in 2011, was to combine an internationally-minded biennial exhibition with the outsider spirit of the local Providence scene, on an every-two-year schedule. The Biennial was not planned as a commercial enterprise; rather, it was conceived as a contemporary art fair akin to those that sprang up around Art Basel as alternatives to its blue-chip, art-as-investment model—a collaboration among artists, friends, and gallerists. Drawing attention to the range and talent of artists in Greater Providence was a fundamental motivation and inspiration for founding the Biennial, and continues to be a primary stimulus for our work.

The historic Cranston Street Armory held promise as the Biennial's venue, until its dire condition and need for massive renovation became clear. With no other sufficiently large-scale space available, we re-evaluated. Like artmaking, curating teaches the importance of being agile responders and inventive doers.

We installed our exhibitions in unexpected, non-traditional venues to engage diverse communities proactively. We showcased works by New England artists and those beyond the region in timely, thematic exhibitions ranging from the purely aesthetic to the eco-political. Venues reached from a vacant office floor in downtown Providence to the State House, from academic office buildings to an outdoor bocce ball court. During the height of the pandemic our 'venue' was entirely virtual, a purpose-built website that displayed the exhibition and catalogue, and drew several thousand hits.

We continue to evolve. We seek to generate curated exhibitions that afford individuals and communities experiences which can, through art's power to disrupt and transform conventions of perception and experience, offer new ways of seeing,

thinking, and engaging with each other. To further this goal, a year and a half ago the Biennial launched a mentoring program to encourage emerging Providence curators.

Recognizing the potency of curating as an agent of social change, we also understand the significant role of curating as an art form unto itself. Emphasizing that curatorial approaches are relative—no single interpretation is ever definitive—we invited curators **Melaine Ferdinand-King** and **Joel Rosario Tapia** to formulate exhibitions around the same topic, to be held in the same place at the same time. This was a novel and challenging proposition.

The curators addressed the demanding ***Curating Commemoration*** theme with dedication and vigor. As this Guide indicates through the diversity of works by their exhibiting artists, Ferdinand-King's **Poiesis** and Tapia's **Remedy** each offer distinctive, bold interpretations of curating commemoration.

The curators' statements follow here, yet the primary conversation happens within the exhibition experience itself, now inviting your keen participation.

Judith Tolnick Champa
Founder + President
Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art

Welcome to WaterFire Arts Center

Welcome to the WaterFire Arts Center, where we are pleased to host the 10th exhibition from the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art, ***Curating Commemoration: Poiesis / Remedy***.

The Biennial chose two curators, Melaine Ferdinand-King and Joel Rosario Tapia, to offer two alternative viewpoints on approaches to commemoration. Both curators expand the idea of commemoration to embrace living forms of recognition and remembrance, underscoring that the community's embrace of memory and representation are the heart of commemoration. The artwork they are presenting moves us to reflection, connection, and transformation. Ferdinand-King and Tapia invite viewers to engage in an act of co-creation as we reexamine our presumptions as the art leads us to share experiences, histories, and realities.

WaterFire Providence and the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art are united in our work to encourage everyone to engage, appreciate and learn from the cultural landscape of the world. Encountering and reacting to art gives us the perspective and breadth to continually reinvent ourselves as we work together to build our community.

Join us at the WaterFire Arts Center and let these artworks provoke your thoughts, challenge your perspectives, and ignite conversations as we all work to build a more inclusive, just and empathetic city.

Barnaby Evans
Artistic Director + co-CEO of WaterFire Providence

Curator's Statement

Poiesis — Poí.ē.sis

Poiesis is an invitation to commemorate the world around us, treasure the transient, and see the potential for beauty and creativity in even the most mundane spaces. By highlighting the works of artists and creatives from the Providence metropolitan area, the exhibition encourages visitors to reflect on their own relationship to the local art scene and consider how art can help us honor and remember the past in new and meaningful ways.

Poiesis, derived from the Greek term for 'to make,' refers to the act or process of creation. In the context of the city, poiesis can be seen as transforming spaces through innovation that reimagines the built environment and engages with the communities that inhabit it. The art of the city, then, is the practice of using art to bring about this transformation. It involves a range of styles and approaches, from experimentation and improvisation to community-building and political commentary.

At its core, the art of the city is about creating connections between people and their surroundings. It seeks to break down barriers and open up new possibilities for relation and interaction. By using the language of art to communicate with and involve diverse audiences, the art of the city has the potential to foster a sense of belonging among residents, creating a shared understanding of place and history.

This exhibition explores the poiesis of the art of the city, showcasing works that blur the boundaries between art and everyday life. From photography that preserves bygone moments to paintings that transform blank canvases into vibrant scenes, the works on display offer a glimpse into how contemporary creative interventions can change the ways in which we engage with the past.

The curatorial vision is organized around four themes: the social impact of city art and street culture, the politics of public space, ephemerality, and the aesthetics of the quotidian. Each featured work engages with these themes in various ways, from the playful and irreverent to the somber and contemplative.

At the same time, the exhibition invites visitors to consider the broader implications of these interventions. What role can art play in shaping the city? How can creative practices contribute to social and cultural change? And how can we harness the power of poiesis to create more equitable and sustainable futures?

We aim to inspire visitors to lean into the works in the exhibition and explore the poiesis of the city for themselves.

—Melaine Ferdinand-King

Curator's Statement

Remedy

My Taino Spirituality and culture are the guiding principles which inform my artistic cultural and curatorial practice. In my culture, The Four Directions North East West and South are the four spiritual directions Rakuno, Sobaiko, Koromo, and Achiano representing knowledge, wisdom and enlightenment, introspection, innocence /open mindedness respectively. This is our Medicine wheel. Our spiritual guidance system. It is our Ancestral technology. It gives us our cosmic identity. Understanding these values gives us a guidance system to help navigate society.

Remedy 1. A medicine or treatment for a disease or injury. To set right an undesirable situation.

Remedy is a verb. An action taking action. A response to the White supremacist culture and values that superficially categorize, dismiss and narrowly define what America is. The climate is changing both socially and politically. The American experience and reality are changing relationally and economically. The time is ripe for discourse, the moment should be seized for the dialog that is inevitable and necessary and healthy. The moment is ripe for truth and reconciliation. Our discourse requires Honesty the kind of Honesty that lies beyond polarization. The Remedy is Truth.

The work of providing truth is being done. Remedy seeks to shine a light on the artists and practitioners doing the work of self-identifying and walking in their truths representing the kinds of change and perspectives which are alive and active in the Providence community and can be meaningful nationally and globally.

Remedy seeks to Commemorate the truth and realities of those artists' work featured in the Exhibition.

—Joel Rosario Tapia



MELAINE FERDINAND-KING

Melaine Ferdinand-King's curatorial projects and intellectual pursuits emphasize the importance of action and critique in our daily lives. She is a scholar, curator, and multi-form creative practitioner who in 2022 co-curated the inaugural Black Biennial exhibition at the RISD Museum, and Black Sonic: Heritage as Heresy at FADA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa. A PhD candidate in Africana Studies at Brown University, she is an active member of The Vanta Guild and Direct Action for Rights and Equality (D.A.R.E.).

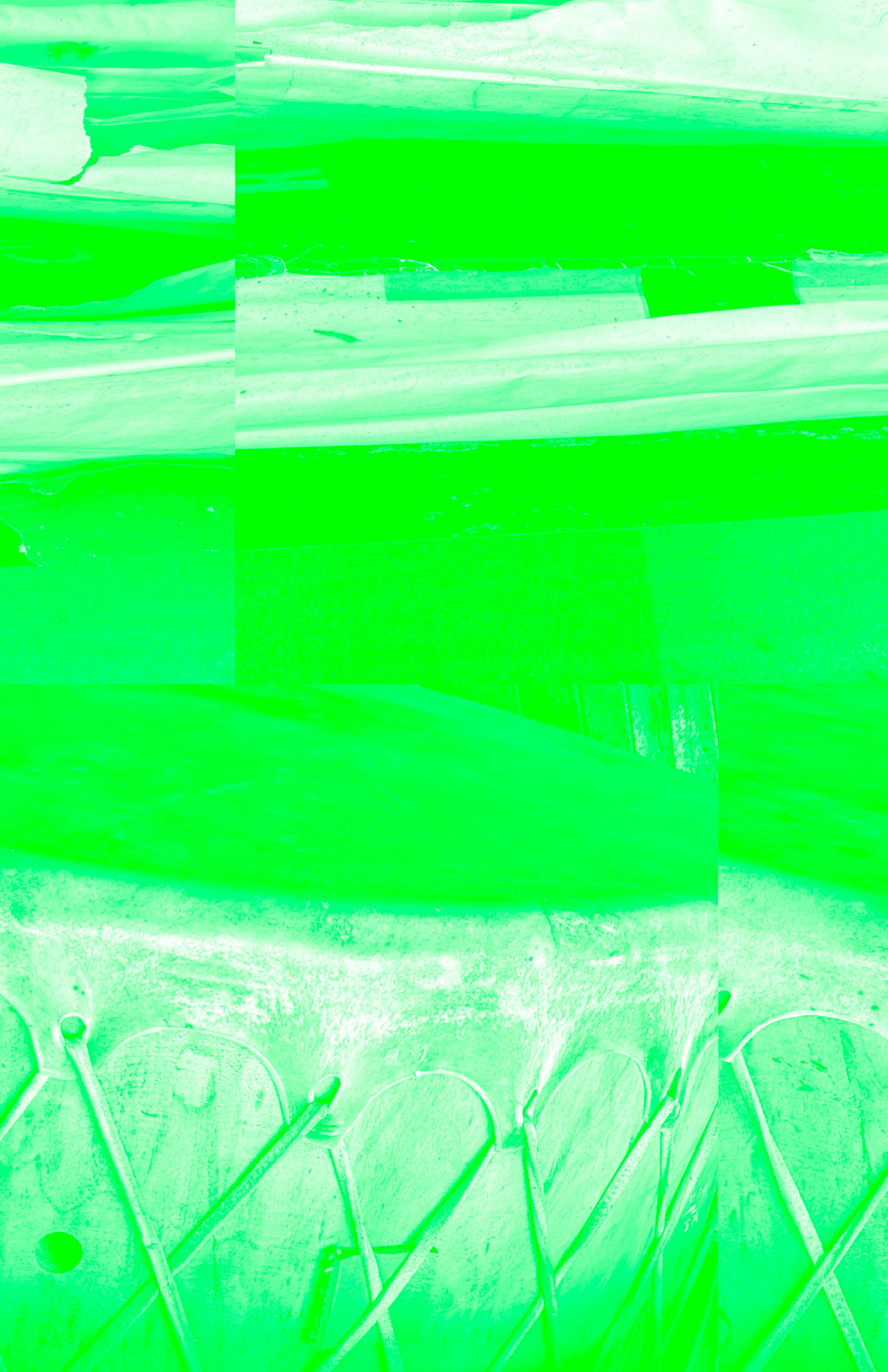
@melainejking
melainecreates@gmail.com



JOEL ROSARIO TAPIA

Joel Rosario Tapia was born in Providence and served two tours of combat in Iraq with the US Army. He is the Superior Chief of the Cibuco-Bayamon Taíno Tribe, and an active voice and writer in the Indigenous diaspora. He is a multi-hyphenate cultural practitioner of Puerto Rican descent who identifies primarily with his indigenous ancestry. Tapia owns Da Art Dealers, a gallery and event space for urban artists and Caona Contractors dedicated to art and culture based projects. Tapia holds a BA and MSc from Full Sail University and was the 2021 RISCA Folk Arts Fellow.

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tapianow.com
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…how can
we harness
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of poiesis to
create more
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Artists' Bios — Poiesis

AGONZA
@agonzaart
I am a Latina X Artist born in Providence, RI. My biological mother was born in Puerto Rico and my father was born in the Dominican Republic. I spent my childhood in the Manton Heights Projects with my grandmother. From the ages of 9-17, my family kept me living in the Dominican Republic with family and friends. I then returned to the US and finished high school with all AP courses at Feinstein High. I then attended the University of Rhode Island and graduated in 2015 with a major in Fine Arts and a minor in theater design.

Isaiah Aladejobi
@PZayCreates
Isaiah Aladejobi is a Washington, DC-based artist, designer, and educator exploring identity, community, and culture through art. Inspired by high Renaissance masters and African art, Aladejobi has collaborated with various organizations to create innovative designs that blend art and technology. He holds a BFA in fine arts with a concentration in advertisement design and a master's degree in industrial design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Joshua Baptista
@joshuabaptista79
Born and raised in Boston, MA, artist Josh Baptista completed his Bachelor's of Fine Art at Montserrat College of Art in 2002. Josh subsequently pursued his Master's of Fine Art from American University in Washington D.C., graduating in 2009. Primarily a painter, Josh also mixes various media to create a parallel world filled with strange, mercurial, and innocently curious creatures. Heavily influenced by his roots in the 90's skateboarding and street art scenes in New England, Josh projects a hesher mindset in his pieces, but does so with a wit and sharpness that illuminates the beauty in the oddities.

Julio E. Berroa
@berroaworld
Julio E. Berroa (BER ROH-uh) was born in Salcedo (s-aa-l-s-EH-d-oh), Dominican Republic, and has been a Providence resident since 2012. Berroa earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Digital Media Design and a minor in Photography. His passions include the Arts, Sex and HIV Education, and Youth Advocacy. All of this drives him to share his experiences through Art to help advocate for young aspiring artists of color.

Big Nazo Lab / Erminio Pinque
@bignazo
BIG NAZO LAB is a creature shop and international touring group based in Providence RI that began as a street theatre experiment in the late eighties and evolved into an interactive stage spectacle and performance art phenomenon. BIG NAZO creations have appeared in festivals, theaters and public spaces throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

Kindell Brown
@kindellbrown
Hi, my name is Kindell Brown. I am a Rhode Island based documentary and street photographer. Photography started for me as a way to improve my skills as a videographer. After enrolling in a digital photography course during the summer of 2016 at the University of Rhode Island, I immediately fell in love with a new medium that I never considered myself skilled in. Storytelling through my eyes has allowed me to contribute to the

narrative of our world and capturing parts of our history.

Ani Jacsmile Cassion
@ani_cassion
Ani Cassion's unique, bold use of acrylic paint to explore Black Womanhood delights and captivates viewers. Her art is a powerful testimony to and celebration of the resilience, strength and beauty of Black Women, and is often enhanced by complex layering of media and color-rich hues, tints and tones. Characterized by vibrant compositions and dazzling techniques, Ani's pieces are dynamic, thoughtful, and alluring. Ani Cassion's vibrant and bold works provide a visual representation of faith in Jesus Christ, as scripture is continually represented in her works.

Quinn Corey
@quinntronix
As a Painter I create images inspired by the graphic language of spectacular culture, that convey the feeling of the world we live in while proposing a Counter-Spectacle to the grim news reel reality of everyday life; a visual world defined by the karmic magic of the universe.

Umberto Crenca
@umberto_crenca
Umberto Crenca is an accomplished painter of fine art, performance artist, sculptor, and musician, with a long exhibition and performance history. His work appears in the permanent collections of the Rhode Island School of Design and Newport Art Museums, and in numerous private collections in the US and abroad.

Justin DeGraide
@de.graide
Justin DeGraide is a film photographer based out of Providence, Rhode Island. Throughout the last few years, his passion for film photography has grown naturally. Through practice, patience, and understanding, he has come to a point where he truly knows what this form of art is to him.

Joelle 'Artfulme' Dejesus
@artfulme401
Artful for short is my name, ingenious and blessed with skills in creativity. Self-taught artist tying in together meaning, messages, and many expressions with a brush and acrylic paint on canvases. I paint out of passion because art has always discovered me first and everyone else sees a gift long before I realized there's a vision.

Raphael Serrano Disla
@fathersname.jr
Raphael Serrano Disla is a painter and multidisciplinary artist, based in Providence, Rhode Island. Whose work deals with themes of enculturation, immigrant narratives, The Caribbean, Nature (it's explicit and elicit meaning), familial bonds and it's aftertaste, and lastly freedom, music and love which are all indicative of the human condition. His work is informed by emotional labor and slices of life.

Dorian Epps
@dorianepps
@blacktopmarket
Dorian Epps is an emerging designer and artist from Pittsburgh, PA based in Providence, RI. His love for basketball and footwear have inspired him to establish a sportswear and streetwear brand — Blacktop Market — that aims to highlight the intersections of streetwear, and sport culture.

Fu'una
@_fuuna_
In the creation story of i taotao tåno (ancient Chamoru), Fu'una is the being that created the universe using the body parts of her brother before giving her own body to create the land. The current incarnation of Fu'una is descended on her maternal side from an indigenous Chamoru village displaced by the United States military; on her paternal side, she is descended from a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. She is an embodiment of United States colonialism and militarization. Her illustrative works attempt to process the inter-related influences of history, power, and heritage on the environment and the psyche.

Paige Huggon
@paigehuggon
Working in acrylics and spray-paint on stretched canvases, Rhode Island-based Abstract Artist and Creative Director, Paige Huggon's pieces document art through self-expression, music, and the elements of nature. With her love for fashion, Paige uses her work to create exclusive collections and unique accessories.

Kevin Saye Kehyei
I am an artist from Providence who uses his camera to not only take pictures but to connect with those around him as well as engage in conversation about mental health and the culture of this city. What I love the most about photography is showing people how I see the city and its inhabitants. That even though we are different, we are the same inside.

Louie
@louiethebee_
Louie is a poet based in Providence, RI. He is a co-owner of The Daily Note and works as a creative writer for Ting Barnard's Studio & Ian Barnard Photography. He loves Hip-Hop/R&B, binge-watching random shows, and encouraging people to write their hearts out. His work is published on wherewordsplay.com.

Hannah Mackie
@artonsycamore
Hannah (they/them) is a queer artist and advocate. They are a lover of dirt, avid over-waterer of house plants, and an ocean-dweller. Fascinated by experiences and understandings of belonging, they are ceaselessly exploring the intersections of identity and connection to place. Their work is a reflection of the old brickwork, chipped paint, and hopeful wildflowers strewn across our city. Imperfect watercolors and shaky pen lines evoke vague familiarity, depicting liminal spaces that have an ambiguously comforting marriage of acquaintance, abandonment or wear, and often a reminder from nature that we are not alone.

Rafael Medina
@rafeakspvd
My name is Rafael Medina and I'm a Dominican-American street photographer from Providence, RI. I've been wandering the streets with my camera for the past 5 years now constantly in search of new perspectives and fleeting moments to capture.

Lennox Orellana
@lennoxorellana
I'm a filmmaker/photographer from Providence, RI. Growing up there,

you're bred with an underdog mentality. Three years ago I found my gift again and took pictures for therapy. The light at the end of the tunnel showed me I have to give everything I got, and become something great.

Tyler Palmer
@tjp.ep
Tyler Palmer is a digital photographer and electronic musician based in Providence, RI. Since the summer of 2022, Tyler has been documenting everyday life in Providence. Their photography aims to dramatize candid moments, often abstracting individual subjects with shadow, reflections and foreground elements.

Autumn Perez
@hbicnailz
Autumn Perez is a Licensed Nail-Technician with unique approaches to nail artistry. The artist seeks to influence the way in which personal expression is represented through self-decoration. The creator behind HBIC Nailz has graduated with BA in Studio Art and Art History from Clark University in 2018.

Isaiah 'Prophet' Raines
@righteous_right_hand
Born in Providence, raised in poor mill cities, and representing the Southside of Fall River, I use my art as a means to retaliate against oppressors, negate the suffering of my people, and to communicate our concepts and experiences to different audiences. Very interdisciplinary, mediums are conquered as necessary.

Derek Raymond
@two_tears
Derek Raymond's work is largely informed by the rudimental aspects of graffiti, with an emphasis on abstracting and manipulating the unrefined qualities of both vandalism and vandalism removal processes. His work is an ongoing study and abstraction of the visual exchanges and ongoing dialogues that live and evolve among us. His most recent work is being created with direct reference to the concepts of (meaningful) discomfort, spiritual purging/cleansing, and absolution.

Archee Rhodes
@archee_rhodes
Archee Rhodes is an artist who came up in Rhode Island's graffiti culture in the early 2000's. For many years he only viewed himself as a vandal and resisted the traditional art world. However, over the past few years he has expanded his vision and began to accept and experiment with different styles, mediums, and techniques

Izzy Rodriguez
@itsbaghead
Originally from Queens, NY and the son of Dominican immigrants, Izzy is a street photographer based in Providence, RI. He draws inspiration from his love of comic books and classic cartoons to fuel his creative energy towards capturing the energy and spirit of the environment around him. His primary approach to street photography is to take ordinary moments in life and create something extraordinary.

Sav Hazard-Chaney
@artxbyxsav
Savaree 'Sav' Hazard-Chaney is a 401 based self-taught artist. She explores culture, community and design through a series of mediums that allow her to explore and grow. Sav is currently taking the textile and fiber world by storm with her expressions of

nostalgia, blackness and experiences through the art of tufting. Sav wants to challenge what it means to be a creative in 'the creative capital'. What it means to be and feel supported in spaces in this city, taking up space with the identities we hold.

Callum Sharkey
@calsharkey
Callum Sharkey is a street photographer from Providence, Rhode Island. He believes there is a poetry to all things and aims to show this through his photos. Every person and every moment has a story to tell, and Callum hopes his photos will tell at least part of that story.

Spocka Summa
@anti_robotclub
@ispocka
Spocka Summa is an artist based out of Providence, RI. As a visual director, illustrator, event curator Summa partakes in a variety of mediums of self expressive art. To tell a story & share a vision.

stay silent
@staysilentpvd
stay silent is a New England-based creative agency and platform. Since launching in 2012, stay silent has been a defining voice of New England's Hip Hop and communities of color through their events, multi-media content, and products.

Daniel Sweet
@dirty_hank
I am a photographer from Providence, RI who has been documenting the city since 1999. Photography plays a meaningful role in my life and I enjoy capturing it all – from simple to complicated.

Nyree Sylvia
@nyreefaith
Rhode Island-based visual artist Nyree Sylvia combines her love for both fashion and photography. Working towards her bachelor's degree in art at the University of Rhode Island. Through her lens, Nyree focuses our intention on cultural experiences, streetwear, and intersectionality.

Elijah Trice
@elijahtriceart
Elijah Trice is a contemporary artist and architectural designer, born and raised in Baltimore, MD. Trice was born into a family of skillful artists, photographers, and musicians. During his second year of graduate school, he decided to pursue his oil painting practice full-time, creating a bridge between his architectural and art education background.

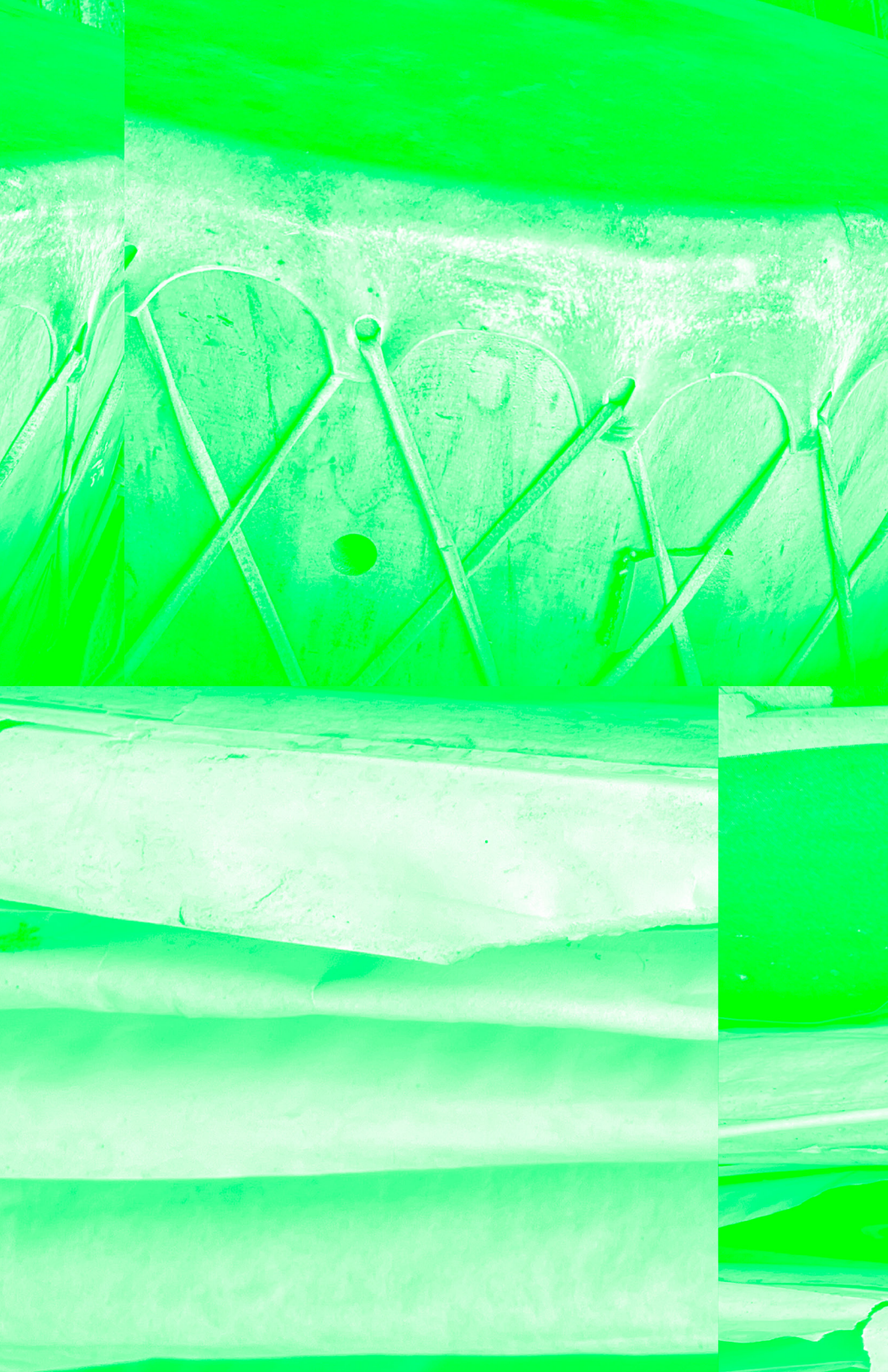
Rachel Turner
@rachelturner2
I am Rachel Turner, a photographer, educator, and Providence native. I use film as a medium to take my photos. Film allows me to slow down, and connect with my environment. I use my photography and the editing process to communicate a feeling of wanderlust, and beauty in the everyday.

Jared Winslow
@winslow_j
Jared Winslow is a Street Photographer based out of Providence, Rhode Island, who is captivated by scenes of life. Walking with his camera has been his favorite way to escape, reconnect, and express himself. It's a form of therapy. Providence holds a special place in his heart, being the place where he found not only this passion for photography, but also his creative voice. It's been his favorite

subject to photograph over the last few years, with its beautiful architecture, eclectic personality, atmosphere, and charm.

Margery Fischer Winter
Margery Fischer Winter is a former editor-in-chief of *Vogue Knitting Magazine*, *Family Circle Knitting*, *Verena USA*, fashion editor of *McCalls Needlework* and *Crafts/ABC*, Creative Director for several domestic and international handknitting yarns labels, including Berroco, Adrienne Vittadini, Reynolds, Unger, Filatura Di Crosa. She is a graduate of RISD. Since retirement, Margery has been working exclusively in her studio, in the Jewelry District, using and repurposing materials she has accumulated during her commercial career.

YSANEL
@ysaneldotcom
Public artist, YSANEL, grew up in the South Side of Providence, deeply rooted in creative culture and Dominican heritage. The common denominator in her array of mediums is a passion for healing herself, people, and spaces through public art and installations.



Remedy is
a verb.
An action
taking action.

Artists' Bios – Remedy

AGONZA

@agonzaart

I am a Latina X Artist born in Providence, RI. My biological mother was born in Puerto Rico and my father was born in the Dominican Republic. I spent my childhood in the Manton Heights Projects with my grandmother. From the ages of 9–17, my family kept me living in the Dominican Republic with family and friends. I then returned to the US and finished high school with all AP courses at Feinstein High. I then attended the University of Rhode Island and graduated in 2015 with a major in Fine Arts and a minor in theater design.

Amber Art and Design

@amberpublicart

Amber Art and Design cultivates public spaces that advocate for equitable growth by facilitating dynamic interactions between artists, communities, institutions, and movements. Our public projects, exhibitions, and educational activities engage thousands of people, from hundreds of communities, both across the United States and internationally. We operate with the belief that art can be a collaborative and inclusive platform for critical conversations by and for community voices.

Eastern Medicine Singers

@easternmedicinesingers

An Algonquin Drum Group from Woonsocket/Providence, RI, Since 2008, the Eastern Medicine Singers are dedicated to keeping the eastern woodlands American Indian culture alive. The drum is made up of RI, NY, NJ & Southeastern Massachusetts Tribes. We are proud to sing and drum in the language of Massachuset & Wampanoag dialect. We thank elder speakers of the language both past and present for their help. We strive to be a traditional all-inclusive drum and sing for our eastern people. We have sung in Canada and Europe and most recently we created Medicine Singers a Contemporary Tribal Rock Group in 2018 with Israeli Guitarist Yonatan Gat touring internationally and featured in *NY Times*, *Pitchfork* & *Indian Country Today*.

Daryl Black Eagle Jamieson

@pocasset.tc

Greetings my name is Daryl Black Eagle Jamieson. I am the Drum Director of the Eastern Medicine Singers. I am also the CEO of Eastern Medicine Cultural LLC a for profit company. I hold a BS in Digital Media Productions from New England Institute of Technology and a Technical Degree in Environmental Technology from the USAF. I currently operate Federal Investigations a Private Investigation company and I am a RI State Constable as well as run Black Eagle Productions LLC a new media and music company promoting culture and music productions. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust Corporation and I am a veteran of the US Air Force.

Jeny (Luna) Hernandez-Watson

@lunafoto401

Documenting through photography has always been a very important part of my life. I enjoy capturing my environment through the lens of a camera. As I've learned the medium, I realized that portraiture and event documentation are a niche of mine.

Lilly Manycolors

Lilly Manycolors is a mixed media visual and performing artist, sculptor, mother and teacher working in the arenas of non-more-than-humanness.

Rachel A. Maeve
@rachelmaevephotography
I believe we can transform through relationship. Intimacy and vulnerability are inherently risky and on the other side of that risk is our wholeness and collective freedom. To open ourselves to be seen by another is a brave act, one I do not take for granted in my photography.

Sidy Maiga
@sidymaigamusic
Sidy Maiga is a Djembe Master from Mali living in Rhode Island. He apprenticed under some of Mali's most renowned Master Drummers. Sidy has been an active member of the local music scene, playing not only traditional Malian music, but also a fusion of Malian music with Latin, Blues, and Brazilian. His love for sharing music and culture with the community inspired him to begin Afrika Nyaga, a West African Dance and Drum Festival. Maiga received the MacColl-Johnson Fellowship 2012, the RISCA Folk Arts Fellowship 2012 & 2022 and graduated from Berklee College of Music 2020. Sidy's djembe that he played for over 20 years is currently on display at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Shey 'Ri Acu' Rivera Ríos
@sheyriv
Shey 'Rí Acu' Rivera Ríos (they/them) is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural worker who uses storytelling across mediums to create worlds where magical realism and scifi become doors into decolonial futures. They are the founder of Studio Loba, a performance and storytelling lab for social change. Rivera was born and raised in Borikén/ Puerto Rico and is based in Providence, RI – land of Narragansett and Wampanoag peoples.

Savonnara Sok
@savonnara401
Savonnara Sok, a Cambodian American artist born in Long Beach CA, now resides in Providence RI and has for the past 10 years. He uses art to translate changes and emotions throughout his life such as love, heartbreak, connection, family, life and death. Creating helps communicate what he's feeling when he can't always find the words to.

Raymond Two Hawks Watson
@twohawkssays
Raymond Two Hawks Watson is a Cultural Practioner whose areas of practice include songwriting in the Narraganset dialect, beading tradional wampum belts, and making northeastern style headdresses. Watson is of Narraganset heritage and is a Tribal National of the Mashapaug Nahaganset Tribe.

List of Works

POIESIS

AGONZA, This Cultural Awakening, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 60×36
Isaiah Aladejobi, Kole, 2023, Wood, 42 Diameter
Joshua Baptista, Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 24.5×18.5
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 24.5×18.5
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 24.5×18.5
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 24.5×18.5
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Untitled, 2023, Mixed media on paper, 9.5×11
Julio E. Berroa, Providence 2043, Downtown, 2021, Digital Video
Providence 2043, West End, 2021, Digital Video
RENEGADE (Providence 2043), 2021, Digital Music Video
BIG NAZO LAB, BIG NAZO Street Invasion: Central Falls, RI, 2010,
Photo by Andrew Fladeboe, 16×25
Street Invasion: Dorchester, Mass #1, 2010,
Photo by Andrew Fladeboe, 16×25
KAWLISH BLOODBEAST, 2016, Foam rubber, latex rubber, acrylic, 120×63×4
SQUIB SQUID, 2014, Foam rubber, latex rubber, acrylic, 96×36×36
Kindell Brown, Untitled, 2016, Photograph, 16×20
Untitled, 2018, Photograph, 14×11
Untitled, 2020, Photograph, 12×18
Untitled, 2020, Photograph, 12×18
Untitled, 2020, Photograph, 12×18
Untitled, 2020, Photograph, 12×18
Ani Jacsmile Cassion, Joy, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 24×36
Quinn Corey, Gene Pool, 2022, Enamel on wood panel, 24×24
Umberto Crenca, Mashup #1, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 36×30
Mashup #2, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 36×30
Justin DeGraide, Haven Bros., 2022, Photograph, 10×8
Olneyville, 2022, Photograph, 10×8
The Salon, 2022, Photograph, 8×10
Joell Dejesus, Growth in Piece, 2023, Acrylic, 16×20
Raphael Serrano Disla, Wait for me right here; as you've left it, 2023,
Oil, gesso on canvas, 29×35
Dorian Epps, Bullsh*t, Recycled Shoe Concept, 2021
Denim on Denim — Upcycle, 2022–23
Dorian Epps, Transformative Streetwear, 202–23
Fu'una, Wedding Cake Flowers, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 48×96
Sav Hazard-Chaney, Tha Creative Capital, 2022, Yarn, 29×29
Kevin Saye Kehyei, Beautiful Me, 2022, Digital photograph, 20×16
Connected, 2022, Digital photograph, 20×16
New Heights, 2022, Digital photograph, 20×16

Kevin Saye Kehyei, The Pink Panther, 2022, Digital photograph, 20×16
Louie, 'The Little Chemist.', 2023, Poem, 24×24
Hannah Mackie, Andre the Dumpster, 2022, Watercolor, ink & acrylic pen, 9×12
Tom Brazy, 2023, Watercolor, ink & acrylic pen, 12×9
Rafael Medina, Atwells Ave, 2020, Photograph, 14×11
Cracked, 2022, Photograph, 14×11
Layers of Providence, 2022, Photograph, 14×11
Muddy Waters, 2022, Photograph, 14×11
Rick's Beauty, 2021, Photograph, 14×11
Ridin', 2021, Photograph, 14×11
Shori, 2023, Photograph, 14×11
Lennox Orellana, LEGACY, 2022, Video, Sony A7RIII
6 19 20, 2020, Photograph, 20×30
6 19 20, 2020, Photograph, 20×30
Tyler Palmer, Night Bus, 2022, Digital photograph, 14×11
Over the Shoulder, 2022, Digital photograph, 14×11
Autumn Perez, PVD FOOD NAILZ, 2023, Aprés Gel Extensions XXL square, UV Clay, Gel Polish, 3×1.5
Isaiah 'Prophet' Raines, Buffed, 2023, Pumice gel medium, gray primer, and spray paint on wood, 12x12
Burnt, 2023, Blunt and cigarette ash on wood, 12×12
Demolished, 2022, Handmade oil paint from ground brick on wood, 12×12
Indecent, 2023, Heavily worn White Wifebeater on wood, 12x12
Papers, 2022 , Rolling papers on wood, 12×12
Property, 2022, Gum wrappers on wood, 12×12
Rag, 2022, Black Bandana on wood, 12×12
Slumlord, 2023, Horsehair Plaster with paint and outlet on wood, 12x12
Textile, 2022, Cotton textile on wood, 12x12
Derek Raymond, I WANT YOU TO LIVE, 2021, Wheatpaste/poster, spray paint, ink on canvas, 48×36
Untitled (We were here) 1, 2023, Acrylic, spray, graphite on canvas, 24×18
Untitled (We were here) 2, 2023, Acrylic, spray, graphite on canvas, 24×18
Archee Rhodes, Untitled, 2022, Spray paint and acrylic, 20×60
Untitled, 2022, Spray paint and acrylic, 31.12×7.5
Untitled, 2022, Spray paint and acrylic, 31.12×7.5
Izzy Rodriguez, The Main Character, 2022, Photograph, 20×16
This Is Hip-Hop, 2022, Photograph, 16×20
Callum Sharkey, Queen of Empire Street, 2023, Photograph, 11×14
The Bodega, 2023, Photograph, 11x14
stay silent: DAY TRILL, September 2016, Printed poster, 16×11
Poster design by Andrew White. Illustrations by Randy Price.
DAY TRILL, July 2016, Printed poster, 16×11
Poster design by Rhue Nobre and Imani Ylsanita. Photo by Bilindoff Joseph.
HOOKAH KILLED THE DANCE FLOOR, April 2022, Printed poster, 16×11
Poster design by Rhue Nobre and Imani Ylsanita. Photo by Bilindoff Joseph.
HOOKAH KILLED THE DANCE FLOOR, December 2022, Printed poster, 16×11
Poster design by Rhue Nobre. Photos by Momolu Akoiwala and Imani Ylsanita.
LUV U BETTER, April 2022, Printed poster, 16×11

stay silent: Poster design by Rhue Nobre and Nino Francis. Photos by Rhue Nobre.
LUV U BETTER Living Room, 2021, Printed poster, 16x11
Anti- Robot Club x Spocka Summa, Anti- Robot Club- 001 The Progression of Spocka, 2021, Digital Illustration, Risograph print, 17×11
Daniel Sweet, Diamond D, 2022, Photograph, 26×24
Eleanor, 2021, Photograph, 36×24
Shot by Nyree Sylvia, Featuring Paige Huggon, Anima Mundi, 2023, 120 Film, 24×20
Featuring Paige Huggon, Ain't Even Gotta Try, 2023, Canon Digital Video Camcorder
Featuring Paige Huggon, Pass the Gushers, 2023, 120 Film, 24×20
Featuring Paige Huggon, 555 I Feel a Shift, 2023, 120 Film, 24×20
Featuring Paige Huggon, & I'm Still Standing, 2023, 120 Film, 24×20
Elijah Trice, UTH, 2023, Oil on canvas, 40×30
Rachel Turner, Night Descends, 2021, Photograph, 18×12
Ride Together, 2021, Photograph, 18×12
Jared Winslow, FOOFEST, 2018, Photograph, 20×16
Jared Winslow, PVDFEST, 2022, Photograph, 16×20
Margery Fischer Winter, STREET MARKINGS, 2018, Wool, natural and synthetic hair, acrylic paint, 74×44
YSANEL, Amelioration, 2017-2023, Bronze
Leave, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 36×24

REMEDY

AGONZA, BIGGIE, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 48×60
Continuous Problems, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 36×12
Culturally Drowning, 2019, Acrylic on canvas, 36×12
Frida X AGONZA Reincarnation Kiss, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 48×60
Medusa Buena, 2013, Acrylic on canvas, 60×24
Talent Glow, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 36×24
Thoughts behind Thoughts, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 60×36
Eastern Medicine Singers, Cedar Powwow Drum, 2009, Native Drum Art, 30×35
Drum Frame Cedar, 2009, Native Drum Art, 52 Diameter
Log Powwow Drum, 2012, Native Drum Art, 30×35
Jeny (Luna) Hernandez-Watson, Breonna & flowers, 2020, Digital photograph, 20×16
Fix Our Future, 2020, Digital photograph, 44×70
Sage, 2020, Digital photograph, 16×20
Strong Bear, 2016, Digital photograph, 44×70
The People, 2020, Digital photograph, 20×16
Two Hawks, 2015, Digital photograph, 16×20
When You Are Neutral, 2020, Digital photograph, 20×16
Daryl Jamieson, Beaver Pelt, Unknown year, Trapping Art
Deer Pelt, 2021, Trapping Art
Rachel A. Maeve, Agonza, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.75
Heryk, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.75
Keir, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.75
Keir looking up at mural, 2022, Photograph, 44×70
Linda, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.5
Mural from Friendship St., scaffolding down, 2022, Photograph, 44×70
Mural from inside Courthouse, 2022, Photograph, 44×70
Nila, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.75
Ysanel, 2022, Tintype photograph, 5×6.75
Selected photo documentation of Amber Art and Design Del Pasado al Futuro mural project, 2022
Lilly Manycolors, Balance, 2023, Mixed media on canvas, 85×61
Braided, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 16×10
Joy, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 20×17
Lady, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 14×11
North, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 17×12
Self Portrait Diptych, 2018, Mixed media on canvas, 96×166
Speak Flowers, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 19×17
Sympoietic Mapping, 2022, Mixed media on canvas, 84×108
Thank You, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 17×12
West, 2023, Mixed media ceramics, 17×12
Sidy Maiga, Djembe of Mali, 2015, Wood, rope, rings and goat skin, 23×15
Djembe of Mali, 2015, Wood, rope, rings and goat skin, 23×15
Sidy Maiga Performing Outfit 1, 2019, Bazin fabric, 43×57
Sidy Maiga Performing Outfit 2, 2019, Bazin fabric, 43×57
Sidy Maiga Performing Outfit 3, 2019, Bazin fabric, 43×57

Shey 'Ri Acu' Rivera Ríos, Bizcocho [or] Cake, 2017, Video loop
Flor de Plátano: Room 1, 2023, Animated Collage or gif
Flor de Plátano: Room 2, 2023, Animated Collage or gif
Mano de Obra, 2022, Panoramic photo, limited edition digital print, Intervened with gold ink, 40×10
No Tiene Casa, 2023, Animated Collage or gif. Intervention on digital archival photograph by Jack Delano 1946, Corozal, Puerto Rico
Ojo de Agua, 2020, Limited edition digital print, 14×14
On Permanence, 2022, Cinder blocks, photographs, altar offerings, 60×60
Savonnara Alex Sok, Blue Gill, 2019, Acrylic, 48×36
Chemistry, 2023, Acrylic and spray paint, 40×30
Envy, 2023, Acrylic and spray paint, 24×24
Home, 2023, Acrylic, 24×18
Mourning, 2022, Spray paint and acrylic, 36×24
Price of Happiness, 2022, Acrylic, 24×18
PVD, 2022, Acrylic, 36×24
SAV, 2023, Acrylic, 40×32
Self Portrait, 2023, Acrylic, 40×30
The Lost and Found, 2023, Acrylic, 54×46
Untitled, 2021, Spray paint and acrylic, 48×48
Untitled, 2023, Acrylic and ink, 20×16
Untitled, 2022, Acrylic and spray paint, 24×18
Raymond Two Hawks Watson, Birch Bark Box, Wood, 5.375×10×10
Sachems Headdress, 2015, Turkey feathers, red tail Hawk feathers, Cooper's hawk feathers, imitation sinew, and leather strips, 10.5×9×7.5
Mashapaug Unity Belt, 2011, Clay wampum beads, imitation sinew, and leather wrap lace, 3.25×25.5×0.125
Nanhiaggenuck Honoring Belt, 2014, Clay wampum beads, imitation sinew, and leather wrap lace, 3.25×41×0.125

✳Remedy Bio Clip Series by Joel Rosario Tapia, 2023

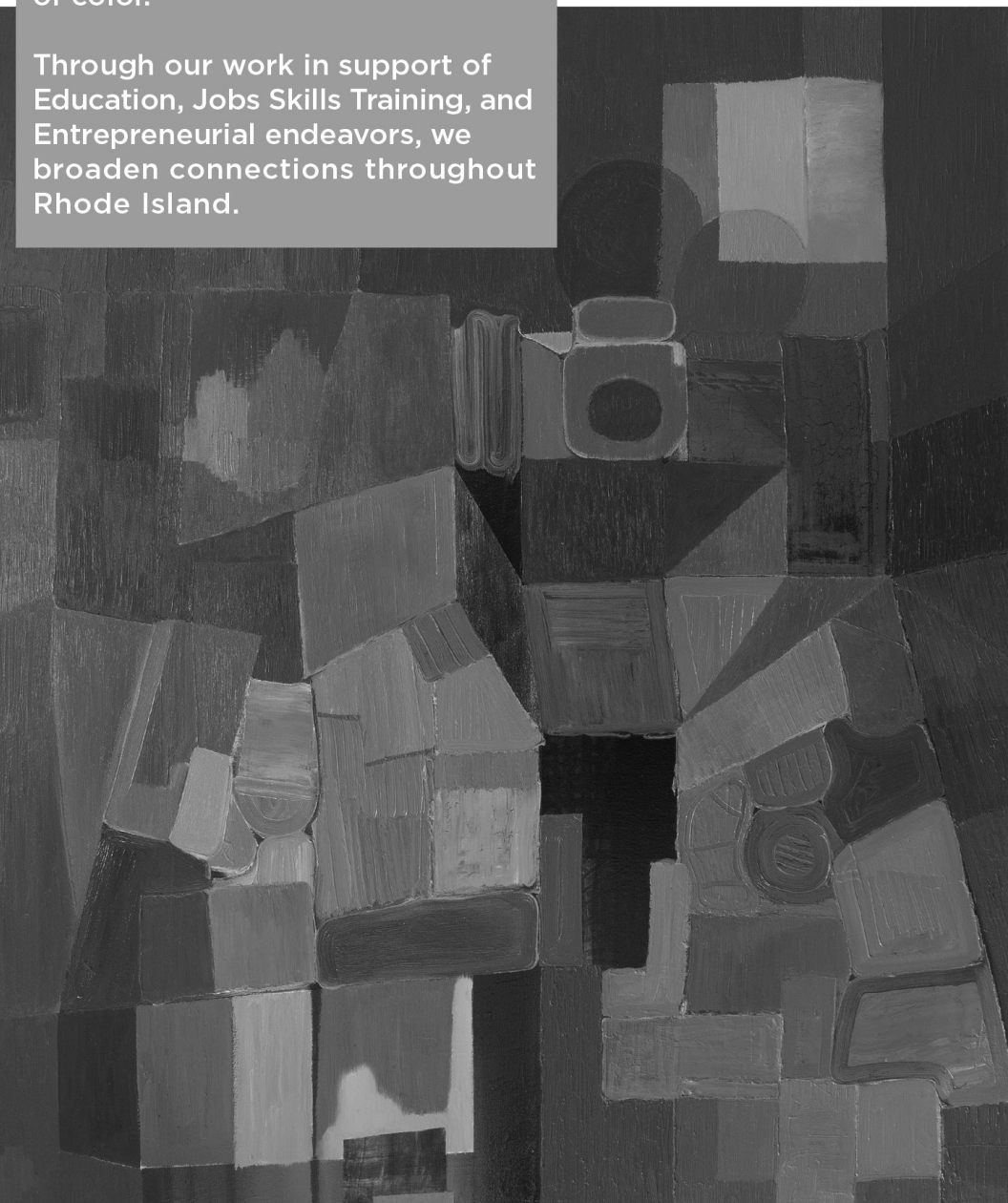
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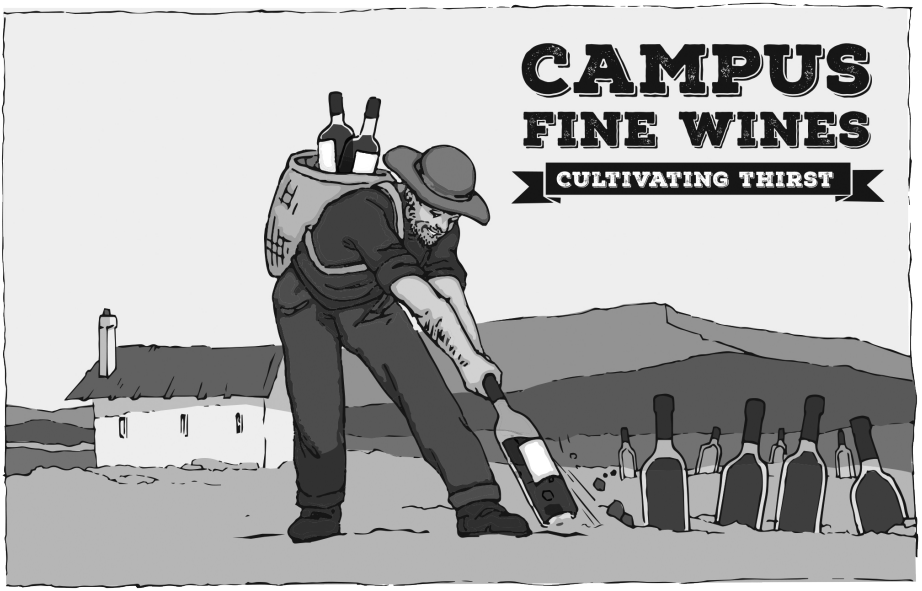
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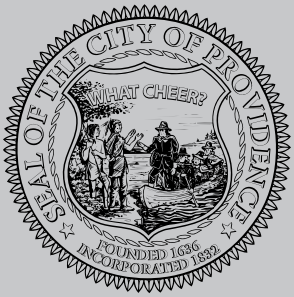


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WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over $149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over $9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit waterfire.org.

About the WaterFire Arts Center
WaterFire Providence purchased the Art Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and a multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit waterfire.org/wfac

About the Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art
The Providence Biennial is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to generate curated exhibitions of contemporary art in Rhode Island that expose individuals and communities to transformative experiences, provoking new ways of seeing, thinking and engaging with each other. To strengthen curatorial practices, experienced board members began a program to mentor emerging curators in realizing ambitious, creatively conceived, contemporary exhibitions, installations or interventions. The program, called 'Providence Curates: cultivating a transformative experiment,' was initiated in 2021. Through thoughtful, socially aware curating, it proceeds from understanding art's capacity to disrupt and alter conventions of perception and experience.

A creative partnership developed with the WaterFire Arts Center to realize our first provocative project, **Curating Commemoration: Poiesis / Remedy**. The exhibition reveals the compelling individual curatorship of Providence residents Melaine Ferdinand-King and Joel Rosario Tapia represented concurrently, side-by-side. As each curator commemorates distinctively the nature of art in Greater Providence in the present time, they affirm a vigorous connection between community, remembrance and the contemporary art/culture relationship.

The Providence Biennial's 'Providence Curates' acts to cultivate a new generation of artists as well as curators in 2023. We strive to stimulate broad response to curating as an art form itself, and to affirm its potential as an agent of social change.
Please visit providencebiennial.org.

Acknowledgements

We thank, above all, curators Melaine Ferdinand-King and Joel Rosario Tapia and the exhibiting artists.

We especially thank WaterFire Providence through WaterFire Arts Center for their generous partnership, resources, patience and technical assistance.

Special thank you to Emily Gray, Executive Assistant to the co-CEOs of WFAC for project management and registrar functions on behalf of the PBCA! Your organizational skills were key to this massive endeavor.

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