

Press Release

For Immediate Release

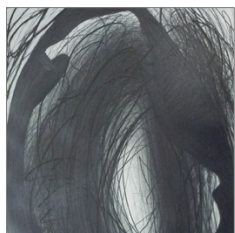
June 25, 2018

From: Akron Soul Train

Contact: Natalie Grieshammer

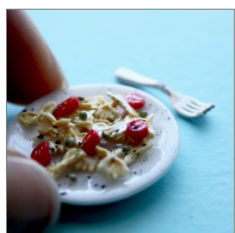
natalie@akronsoultrain.org

Akron Soul Train (AST) is thrilled to support 13 new local and regional artists from September 2018 through August 2019. The AST Fellowship Selection Committee reviewed 70 applications and selected a wide variety of excellent visual and performing artists, ranging from emerging to more established. Each artist will lead a community program during their fellowship as well as present a final exhibition or performance in Akron to share the artwork they created. Below is a short description and visual for each artist and their respective fellowship month:



David Sapp | Berlin Heights, OH | September 2018

"In committing to the creative act, my primary endeavor is to actualize a work of art that embodies natural, immediate, and responsive expression through the act of mark-making." Sapp is a visual artist and writer living on the coast of Lake Erie. His drawings have been exhibited across the U.S., Canada and U.K. In 2018, David was awarded the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award grant for poetry.



Charisse Harris | Columbus, OH | October 2018

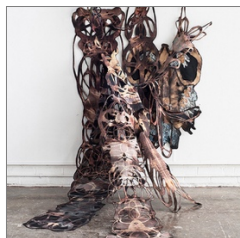
Through her autobiographical miniature sculptures, Harris "aims to explore the evolution and complexities of soul food in black culture." She is a mixed media artist exploring issues about identity, black culture, faith and female representation. Born and raised in Akron, Charisse recently graduated from Kent State with an MFA and is now a professor at Columbus Community College and Capital University.



Joshua Eiskamp | Seven Hills, OH | October 2018

"The pendulous is an ongoing series of paintings focused on the spatial interplay between vertical lines suspended from a horizontal bar and layers of painterly color field." Eiskamp's abstract paintings are intentionally meditative and immersive, which allow the viewer to linger in the subtleties of the rich, layered surface. He has worked in the arts and as an artist for several years in the Cleveland area.

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Christi Birchfield | Cleveland, OH | November 2018

Birchfield's sculptural forms are inspired by life's fleeting nature. "Acknowledging the temporality of living things, I record all that I can through both intentional application and chance operations, often through a printed means." Christi has exhibited her work extensively throughout Cleveland at prominent venues, such as MOCA, and was recently awarded an Artist Individual Excellence Award through the Ohio Arts Council.



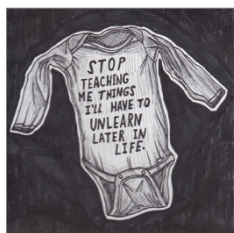
Uno Lady (Christa Ebert) | Cleveland, OH | November 2018

Uno Lady creates lush layers using her voice, electronic pedals, and unconventional instruments such as a musical saw. Her music is ethereal and genre bending with elements of jazz, doo wop, 60s Pop, and folk. She has been a Creative Workforce Fellow, a Panza Foundation awardee, and has performed for over a decade at a variety of venues such as public events, museums, DIY spaces, and everywhere in between.



Arabella Proffer | Lakewood, OH | March 2019

Proffer's surreal landscape paintings "bring together my interests in botany, microbiology, monsters, space, disease and the evolution of cells...all while creating from my own imagination and instinct." Her work has been in exhibitions around North America, parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Australia and has also been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Hi-Fructose, Juxtapoz, and Dallas Arts Review.



Elizabeth Dallas | Akron, OH | April 2019

Elly Dallas is an artist, printmaker ('printcess'), zinester, storyteller, and sharer of ideas. Through her work she explores the idea that personal is political, and change can be made by sharing even just the smallest of stories. Dallas grew up in NE Ohio and is now attending The University of Akron where she is pursuing a Masters degree in Education. Her current art practice consists of working in comics, zines, and embroidery.



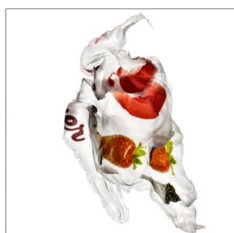
Benjamin Patrick | Akron, OH | April 2019

"With my music, I strive to create an experience that all people can relate to, an experience that makes music more accessible...I use a variety of inspirations and sounds to construct my music, which is familiar yet unique." Patrick is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist who has been a part of the Akron music scene for ten years. He is best known as guitar player and vocalist for local band The Dreemers.



Alysia Klein | Kent, OH | May 2019

Klein's mixed media artwork is heavily concept driven as it explores issues of privilege and poverty; "Inequality and oppression are keywords that play through my head as I create and attempt to approach these issues in a sincere manner." She is currently a MFA candidate in Painting and Drawing at Kent State University.



Zelda Zinn | Brooklyn, NY | May 2019

A life-long photographer, Zinn has always been enchanted with the idea of making pictures that transcend their modest subjects. Her recent fascination focuses on the recycle bin. "I have used packing bubbles, security envelopes, shredded paper and magazines, and most recently plastic shopping bags. Whereas many of the goods were recyclable, the plastic bags are not. Bright, shiny and alluring, they are dangerous to wildlife."



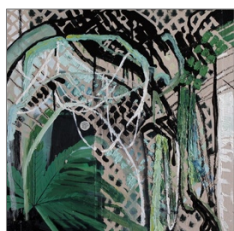
Diane Britt | Birmingham, OH | June 2019

Britt's work encompasses paper and book arts, sculpture and installation, and drawing as vehicles for unusual materials, methods, and ways to use language. Her pieces often engage with personal and universal narratives, reflecting both her own experience while encompassing a larger political and humanistic perspective at the same time. Diane's art has been shown across the U.S. and Europe.



Micah Kraus | Akron, OH | July 2019

"I live in a place where ego and artifice don't hold much water. There's value in resilience, sincerity, and earnestness, even when it looks like a crumbling building or a weathered face." Heavily influenced by place and process, Kraus' art is about finding potential in collapsing structures. He has been a printmaker, photographer, designer, and arts educator for nearly 20 years.



Maggie Duff | Akron, OH | August 2019

"I combine traditional art materials with found materials and industrial paints, mimicking plant life, human struggles, concrete and compost that surround me in an ever-changing mass." Duff is inspired by the unique plant life in urban settings, especially those of her personal experiences in Akron. After graduating with her BFA from the University of Akron, she has shown all over NE Ohio and co-founded local DIY venue and gallery, Hive Mind.