

ARTISTS: FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS SWITCHING STATION ART WALL PROJECT

Manny Acevedo is a multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in Newark, New Jersey with work exhibited within the US and abroad. Through various media, he employs visual language in ways that transform flat, static images into active spaces of experimentation.

Kevin Darmanie is multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in Newark, NJ. His more than 10 years of experience have generated legendary status amongst local artistic youth. Darmanie is currently owner and director of the Newark-based art studio, "Kedar Studios."

Otto Neals is a world renowned, painter, sculptor, and printmaker born in South Carolina. His work has been exhibited in distinguished institutions across the U.S. and abroad. After becoming an active participant in the Black Arts movement, Neals co-founded the historic Weusi Artist Collective and Nyumba Ya Sanaa Gallery in Harlem, NY. Learn more at <http://www.ottoneals.com/>

Gladys Barker Grauer is a mix-media artist and retired art educator with work exhibited both domestically and internationally. In 1971, she opened the "Aard Studio Galley" on Bergen Street in Newark; the first art establishment in the city to address the needs of artists of color by providing a forum for mutual support, professional networking, exhibiting and selling.

Jerry Gant is a native of Newark, New Jersey and a multi-disciplined, visual and fine arts artist, arts educator, activist and self-driven historian. For over 25 years, his work, while challenging conventional thinking, has reflected the human spirit of the community.

Kevin Sampson, a second-generation New Jersey community leader, is a 22-year-experienced gallery artist with the Cavin-Morris Gallery in New York City. As a teacher, mentor, and Newark-based artist, he uses the community as his ultimate muse; engulfing its joys, pains hopes and dreams.

Musa Hixon is a 2007 Oxford Round Table Fellow and multifaceted artist originating from Cleveland, Ohio. Hixon is renowned for his work exhibitions both locally and internationally. His most recent accolades include becoming a Wave Hill-Winter Workspace "artist-in-residence" in the Bronx, New York.

Perez Melero began his career in Venezuela, where he lived until the early 1980's. Melero's work has been exhibited both in international and public collections. Since traveling to the US, he maintains workshops in both Caracas and New York.

Willie Cole's work has been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions. Most recently, the "Willie Cole Sculptures and Wall Works" opened at Albertine Monroe-Brown Gallery at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The exhibition will travel to the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, NC.

Ya La'ford is a professor, visual painter, installation artist and muralist. In her practice, she explores human interconnectivity, community, evidence, and manipulation. As a first generation Chinese Jamaican, she moves between her heritages and underserved communities to find a universal language. Learn more at <http://www.Yalaford.com>

Xenobia Bailey is a fiber-medium artist, cultural activist and independent scholar. Transitioning from industrial design to costume design, and now fine art installations, her work has been celebrated and showcased in Hollywood on-screen and on-stage productions. Next ... the NYC Transit System!

Nina Chanel Abney is a Chicago-born artist living and creating in New York City. With over 10 years of work showcased in solo and partnering exhibitions, both locally and internationally, she's been recognized nationally for her work involving women in art, international travel, culture and family.

Lisa C Soto is a rising star in the contemporary art scene. For the last 10 years, her work has been shown throughout Los Angeles, NYC, Newark, Florida and other international cities. Soto is a 2006 "Creative Capital/Aljira Emerge Art Program" graduate. She currently lives and creates in Los Angeles.

Mike Rader is a multi-award, winning artist who works in film, sculpture, painting and printmaking mediums. His work has been seen in galleries, museums and film theaters across the country. Radar's contribution to the Fairmont Art Wall focuses on hope and is entitled "A Silver Lining for Newark."