



CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

URBAN  
**artists**  
I N I T I A T I V E

in partnership with THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH

BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
ENTRANCE SHOWCASES

EXHIBIT TAG

DATES

FLOOR

TERMINAL

12.06.02 - 3.02.03

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DESTINATION

**CT ARTS**

V I S I O N A R Y L A N D S C A P E S

## THE EXHIBIT

**D**estination Connecticut Arts: 'Visionary Landscapes' recognizes Connecticut's beauty and its long tradition of landscape artists. What is unique about this exhibit is how these nine artists relate to their environment whether natural or man-made through an examination of space, place, or time, along with the artistic concerns of color, light, and form. Each artist creates his or her work with an attempt at conveying vitality and wonder as they marvel at their surroundings.

The Urban Artists Initiative program draws artists from a wide variety of cultural and economic backgrounds throughout our state. Artists from urban, suburban, or rural Connecticut are one of this state's valuable resources. As we watch our state grow and change both through nature and redevelopment, artists will always respond based on their observation of those changes. We are proud to present this year's installment of Destination CT Arts.

For inquiries about work and artists, please contact:

Colleen L. Coleman

Artistic Director and UAI Program Coordinator

860.278.2044 ext. 310 • [www.incommunityresearch.org/uai.html](http://www.incommunityresearch.org/uai.html)

## THE PROGRAM

The Urban Artists Initiative (UAI) is a statewide program that began in 1991 with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to identify, train, promote and document the work of urban artists and developing arts organizations in Connecticut cities. UAI enables artists and organizations in Connecticut to become more deeply engaged in the cultural, educational, and economic lives of their communities through professional training, mentors, network building, and grants.

The Destination Connecticut Arts exhibition series demonstrates UAI's commitment to furthering the careers of artists and to helping develop organizations. UAI's training enhances the ability of artists to produce, present, and market their work effectively to local, regional, and national audiences. Over 260 artists representing at least 30 different ethnic and cultural groups have participated in the program in 10 cities, forever changing the cultural landscape of Connecticut.

Allen Hoffman, Program Director  
Connecticut Commission on the Arts

Maryland M. Grier, Program Director  
The Institute for Community Research

## DESTINATION: NEW BRITAIN

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*Photography allows me to share my view of the world. My goal is to have people of all cultures appreciate each other—encouraging understanding and imparting the importance of humanity. I capture events as they happen, cataloging the remnants of life.*



Amistad Cabin, Color photograph



Phillip Fortune

**LORETTA EASON** was born and raised in New Britain, Connecticut. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in advertising graphics from Moore College of Art in Philadelphia. Eason's interest in photography is to record, document, or archive life events. She creates publications for schools and organizations. Loretta's work has appeared in The New Britain Museum of American Art, Union Carbide Exhibition Hall in New York, Connecticut Magazine, and numerous newspapers.

## DESTINATION: BRIDGEPORT

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*I am privileged to live my life engaged in sublime worship. Man himself is a work of art that is in a continual process of creation. As an artist I have come to understand the dynamic of this wonderful relationship. I have been given the gift and responsibility to create.*



Untitled, Oil pastel



**JOHN LAWSON** is a resident of Bridgeport, Connecticut. His North Carolina childhood provided a stimulating atmosphere for the intellectual and spiritual growth of this dynamic artist. John's desire for expression set him on a journey to convey with great passion and emotion, the strength, power and grace of his African American heritage. Lawson elegantly portrays his subjects working in the mediums of oil pastel and airbrush. He exhibits throughout the tri-state area while actively working as an ordained minister, musician, and radio personality.

## DESTINATION: WATERBURY

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*I tell visual stories through my photoglobes. My goal is to recreate reality in two and three-dimensional panoramic collages composed of multiple photographs.*



Times Square 2000, PhotoGlobe



**JAMES E. MILLER** Meeting Edward Steichen in 1971 confirmed for Miller, that he was not just a photographer, but also an artist. Since 1974, Miller has sought to reflect the world from his perspective through the Photoglobe process. Miller was awarded a residency in 2000-01 at the Farmington Valley Arts Center. The city of New Haven through its Percent for Arts Program also awarded him a public art project. Miller's photoglobe subjects include Niagara Falls, the CT Capitol Legislative Building, and Times Square on New Years Eve, 2000. James exhibits throughout Connecticut.

## DESTINATION: NEW LONDON

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*The objective in my paintings is not to be limited to the drawing alone. I create expressions, emotions and observations through the exploration of color. The intention is to manipulate the viewer's perception of the image both visually and emotionally. With my color and paint application, I create the illusion of clarity at distances while retaining the elusive qualities up close.*



Dusk, Oil on linen, 24"x 26"



**TORY BRYANT** is a fine artist living in New London, CT. She began her formal study at Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme. Bryant majored in oil painting and received a BFA in 1999. While at college she took the summers to travel with backpack and easel through the greens of Europe. Upon graduating, Tory broadened her knowledge of art by attending the Arts Students League in New York City. She also trained in graphic design. Recently, Bryant was awarded

Best in Show at UAI's Southeast Region Exhibition and Honorable Mention for New London's annual event, 'Books, Boats and Brushes.'

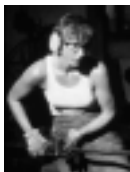
## DESTINATION: NORWICH

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*Natural forms such as flowers, leaves, butterflies, and snakes seem to find their way into my work. Although steel is usually first thought of as an industrial material, I like to draw attention to our connection with it on a human level by creating objects that reveal organic forms.*



Dahlia, Forged steel, life-size



**SUSAN MADACSI** grew up in Boise, Idaho. In 1994, she graduated with a degree in fine arts, and moved to Austin, Texas where she discovered the seductive and challenging world of blacksmithing and metal arts. Having apprenticed with master blacksmiths and designers in Texas, Madacsi relocated to Connecticut two years ago. She now creates a range of objects at her shop in Noank. Susan will be featured in a book, 'Screens,' due out in 2003 by Lark Books. She has shown nationally, including the Museum of Art and Science in Anchorage, Alaska, and has an upcoming solo show at the Huntington House Museum in Windsor.

## DESTINATION: NORWALK

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*Pablo Picasso said, 'The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.' This encouraged me to investigate the world of painting and sculpture. My artwork is infused with exaggerated color, heightened lights, and deep darks to give my work a dramatic appeal. My artistic influences are Georges Braque, Pablo Picasso, and Edgar Degas.*



Expectations, Oil on canvas, 30"x 40"



**DESMEN SMITH** was born in Norwalk, CT in 1974. He studied painting and graphic design at Columbus College of Art and Design. Currently, he attends Southern CT State University where he is completing his teaching certification in art education. Smith is a creative thinker, seeking to empower others by his work in education, art and technology. He works in a wide range of mediums including acrylics, oils, paper collage, and digital imagery. Smith has exhibited

at Black Art Plus in Columbus, Ohio; Columbus College; Silvermine Guild; Norwalk Museum; and the Global Village in Japan.

## DESTINATION: STAMFORD

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*I believe the artist is an interpreter—a very important component of any society. He or she interprets the morals, standards, ills, beauty, laments, joys, and confusion for a society.*



Street Vendors, Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 36"



Phillip Fortune

**IYABA IBO MANDINGO** studied fine arts at Southern Connecticut State University. His work celebrates the lives of people of the African Diaspora in all its manifestations, with a West African aesthetic of the Yoruba (his native tribe). Iyaba's work investigates formal artistic issues of color principles and concepts. Mandingo has exhibited his work throughout the United States and internationally.

## DESTINATION: BRISTOL

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*Although I draw the figure from life as a discipline, I mostly work from imagination. Nature is a wellspring, but my work is from inside.*



Eye of the Needle, Monotype, 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ "x 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ "



**MARC CHABOT** received a B.S. degree in drawing and printmaking from Skidmore College. He has worked with artists Michael Mazur and Hyman Bloom. In Woodbury, CT since 1989, he has assisted sculptor Philip Grausman; joined faculty at Washington Art Association; and taught at W.C.S.U., Holy Cross High School, and the Center for Contemporary Printmaking. A Weir Farm Visiting Artist in 1995-6, he now instructs their summer arts classes. Chabot has exhibited at the National Academy of Design, Aldrich Museum, Mattatuck Museum, and the CT Commission on the Arts, from which he received an Artist Fellowship in 2000.

## DESTINATION: HARTFORD

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*Where we live, how we live—does that define who we are as Americans? My work represents my reality of, and my hope for America.*



The Neighbors I, Pen and acrylic, 9.5" x 24"



**DEBORAH A. SIMMONS**, a native of North Carolina, will occasionally ask herself the question, 'How did I get here [Connecticut]?' However, she does not regret the move. With a career in music, she also explores mediums within the visual arts (i.e., quilting, ceramics, painting). Her work has been exhibited throughout the greater Hartford area—the Craftery Gallery; UConn in West Hartford; The Institute for Community Research Gallery; and Manchester Community College's New Space Gallery. Her need for expression through the visual arts is a necessity despite her hectic schedule as an educator and performer.

## THE PARTNERSHIP

The Urban Artists Initiative is a program of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts in partnership with The Institute for Community Research.

The Connecticut Commission on the Arts is a state government agency whose mission is to support artistic excellence, foster cultural development through the arts, and increase public understanding of, participation in, and support for the arts.

The Institute for Community Research is a private nonprofit research and educational organization partnering with communities in the fields of culture, education, and health. In addition to collaborating with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts in the Urban Artists Initiative, the Institute operates the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program and The Institute for Community Research Gallery.

The partnership between these organizations is strengthened by the access to arts networks and resources provided by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the cultural fieldwork, outreach, documentation, and support to communities and artists available through The Institute for Community Research.



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