

Jason Sauer, MFA

Creative Educator and Professional Artist

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Selected Artworks by Students of Jason Sauer

This document includes images and description of artworks created by students of Jason Sauer.



Shawn Farester, D.S. Kinsel, Camo Nesbit, and Jason Sauer at their ArtBlend Booth Miami Art Week 2023

This document serves as a testament to the vibrant artistic journey fostered by Jason Sauer's mentorship, featuring an array of remarkable artworks created by his talented students. From sculptures to graffiti art, figurative drawings, the diverse range of creations reflects the expansive and transformative nature of Sauer's teachings. The document captures the growth from students to accomplished professionals. It delves into the unique experiences of these artists under Sauer's guidance, detailing their participation in national tours, art battles, and prestigious art fairs like Miami Art Week. Through a rich tapestry of creativity, skill, and personal growth, this document showcases the profound impact of Jason Sauer's mentorship on the artistic community.

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"Nobodies Gala" by Hoesy Corona IMAGE 1

"Nobodies Gala" by Hoesy Corona in Pittsburgh at the [Re:NEW Festival](#) & [VIA Festivals](#) 2016 in East Liberty -- In this performance I invite passersby to participate in the act of nobodizing- an operation that consists of making somebody nobody. www.hoesycorona.com.

Hoesy Corona, a Latinx Queer artist, served as a Cafe Con Leche Latino Resident Artist at Most Wanted Fine Art in 2016, part of a collaborative initiative with MWFA that brought together Latino artists from Pittsburgh and beyond to create art inspired by the city. In his practice, Corona explores the intricate relationship between humans and the environment, focusing on the changing climate's impact on habitation and migration patterns. His multidisciplinary art, spanning installation, performance, and sculpture, has been featured in galleries, museums, and public spaces across the United States and internationally. During his residency, Jason Sauer, emphasizing artistic risk-taking within the community, played a pivotal role in guiding community engagement, supporting installation preparation, and facilitating various programs. Represented by RoFa Gallery in Potomac, MD, Hoesy's work has gained recognition in notable publications, including The Washington Post, Bmore Art Magazine, The Baltimore Sun, Washington City Paper, and The American Scholar.

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Selfie- Paper & Wheat Paste- Elizabeth Barreto Ortiz- 2016

Elizabeth Barreto (1987-) hails from Bayamón, Puerto Rico, and became a Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) resident artist in 2016. Her work during this residency period included crafting life-sized hand-drawn wheat pastes installed along Penn Ave Arts District's empty buildings. Elizabeth also created vibrant watercolors featuring Pittsburgh artists and cultural figures, using discarded items from the alley behind the gallery. Her art aimed to reflect the Latino experience in Pittsburgh, contributing to the diverse cultural narrative of the city.

During her MWFA artist residency in 2015, Elizabeth received mentorship from Jason Sauer. Jason played a crucial role, providing guidance in community engagement, assisting in the preparation of installations, and facilitating various programs. He empowered Elizabeth and fellow artists not only to conceptualize but also to actively contribute to the dynamic cultural tapestry of Garfield.

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Cafe Con Leche Latino Artist Residency Dinner

In 2015, Tara Sherry-Torres embarked on her MWFA Artist residency, leveraging her background as a Licensed Social Worker and seasoned non-profit administrator. Armed with a Master's in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, specializing in Community Organizing, Tara's residency honed in on the theme of food as a cultural unifier across the Latino diaspora, exploring this concept through artistic events involving culinary experiences.

In 2016, MWFA, in collaboration with Tara Sherry-Torres, initiated Pittsburgh's First Latino Artist Residency, generously supported by The Heinz Endowments' Small Arts Initiative. The goal was to inspire the creation of art rooted in the artists' encounters in Pittsburgh, a region with a smaller-than-average Latino population. Over the course of March to August 2016, each participating artist, including Tara, actively engaged with the community through artist talks, workshops, and a unique dinner series named Sobremesa. This series provided an intimate setting for guests to meet Café Con Leche's resident artists while savoring traditional Puerto Rican cuisine.

Throughout these endeavors, Jason Sauer played a pivotal role in Tara Sherry-Torres's education and that of visiting Latino artists. Beyond facilitating exhibits, workshops, and installations, Jason imparted valuable insights into the Pittsburgh Arts scene. Recognizing the importance of effective communication and community engagement, he provided education in public speaking to enhance the artists' outreach efforts during their residencies.

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Metal Petals- Green+Screen

"The Green + Screen projects along Penn Avenue in Garfield (2010-2013) were dynamic initiatives led by the ecoDesigners Guild, bringing together a motivated group of design professionals. These projects, marked by artistic and educational installations, aimed to transform and enhance the community. The flagship Green + Screen project, a collaborative effort spanning two months (pictured), involved dedicated volunteers. Jason Sauer of Most Wanted Fine Art and Summit Academy played a key role by teaching high school students how to upcycle discarded materials into sculptures.

During his tenure at Summit Academy, Jason Sauer held a multifaceted position as the Screen Print Teacher and Community Service Director. Situated on a sprawling 122-acre campus in rural Butler County, Pennsylvania, Summit Academy is a private, residential school catering to at-risk young men aged 13 to 17. Jason developed and implemented a commercial screen print shop curriculum for students. This curriculum not only focused on teaching technical skills but also integrated community service elements. Jason's responsibilities included managing all screen printing operations, overseeing the production of over 200 shirts weekly, and ensuring the overall functionality of the screen printing shop. This role allowed Jason to engage with students hands-on, providing them with practical screen printing skills while emphasizing the importance of community engagement and service within the educational framework of Summit Academy.

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Tetris Blocks- Garfield Community Action Team

Jason Sauer, from Most Wanted Fine Art, took an active role in empowering high school students and community members by providing hands-on instruction in the use of power tools. This collaborative effort aimed at creating multipurpose sculptures for a public garden was conducted in partnership with the Garfield Community Action Team. Founded in the spring of 2010, the Garfield Community Action Team emerged as a community-driven initiative, where neighbors convened to address public safety and blight concerns through innovative projects and proactive engagement.

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Far Out Dog- Kai Devenitch

By day, Kai Devenitch is a skilled graphic designer continually pushing the boundaries of his artistic pursuits, Kai delves into a diverse array of creations, encompassing still lifes, cartoon strips, paintings, and animations. His digital artistry extends to crafting posters, t-shirts, logos, and illustrations for notable clients, including Bayer HealthCare, Alexander's Athletic Club, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Actively engaged in the Pittsburgh art scene, Kai has showcased his work in regional exhibits and competitions such as Pittsburgh's Art Car Festival, Art All Night, and Cleveland's Battle of the Rust Belt. For the past decade, Kai has thrived as a resident artist at Most Wanted Fine Art, honing his skills under the mentorship of Jason Sauer. He teaches art installation, set building, mural painting, and the art of Spray Paint, covering fonts, techniques, and the rules of graffiti. His education isn't confined to digital arts; during the MWFA Artist Residency program (2014-2016), Jason Sauer provided invaluable lessons in community engagement, hands-on installation preparation, and program facilitation. Jason's emphasis on artistic risk-taking within the community empowered Kai and fellow artists to not just conceptualize but actively contribute to the cultural tapestry of Garfield. However Kai's involvement with MWFA didn't stop there. Kai continues on as a mentee with Sauer. Including attending National Tours, Studio Assistant Duties, and participating in exhibits such as Miami Art Week.

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Dolls- Macabre Noir - 2016

Distinguished creator and entrepreneur Kelly Macabre Noir, renowned for her acclaimed 'Atrocity Exhibition,' an annual cabaret in the South Side, currently directs The Weeping Glass. Macabre Noir, known for breathing life into sculptures crafted from clay and cloth through her unique dark magic, has left an indelible mark in the realm of artistic expression.

Beyond her residency at MWFA from 2014 to 2016, Jason Sauer served as a guiding force and influential mentor in Macabre Noir's artistic journey. Through the residency program, he provided invaluable lessons encompassing community engagement, hands-on installation preparation, and program facilitation. Emphasizing the importance of artistic risk-taking within the community, Sauer played a pivotal role in steering artists, including Macabre Noir, to develop and bring their artworks to fruition for various exhibits. This immersive teaching approach empowered artists to not only conceptualize but actively contribute to the vibrant cultural tapestry of Garfield.

Moreover, Macabre Noir's involvement extended to collaborative projects outside the residency, notably consulting with Jason Sauer on Scarehouse's award-winning artistic sets and hosting diverse events such as a burlesque school, practices for her 'Atrocity Exhibition' at the gallery, and numerous performances during the Penn Ave Arts in Motion Festival.

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Store- Macabre Noir - 2015

During Macabre Noir's 2014 & 2015 residency, MWFA expanded its program, collaborating with Macabre Noir to include an additional 5,500-square-foot location at the Waterfront for the 'Bizarre! Bazaar!'. The Weeping Glass, born from this collaboration, is a unique shop in Allentown attracting nationwide visitors with its oddities and curiosities. As a 2015 MWFA Resident artist, Macabre Noir, guided by influential mentor Jason Sauer, developed the 'Bizarre! Bazaar!' into 'The Weeping Glass,' showcasing handmade jewelry, artworks, dolls, and more. Sauer, during the 2014-2016 Artist Residency program, provided invaluable lessons in community engagement, installation preparation, and program facilitation. Specifically, he aided Macabre in creative entrepreneurship and gallery management.

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2014 Solo Show at MWFA- Lauren Toohey

Lauren Toohey, an exceptional tattoo artist based in Pittsburgh, United States, has garnered recognition for her remarkable expertise in watercolor and illustrative tattoo styles. Specializing in colorful acrylic paintings on canvas, particularly featuring birds and psychedelic images, Lauren's artistic journey began during her time as a student at the Community College of Allegheny County in 2005. Her foundation in drawing skills, nurtured by Jason Sauer in Drawing 1 and 2, laid the groundwork for her future artistic endeavors.

Continuing her education through Jason's mentorship, Lauren's talents flourished, leading her to become an award-winning tattoo artist. In her solo exhibition at MWFA in 2014, Lauren seamlessly integrated her artistic prowess with immersive techniques imparted by Jason Sauer. The result was a captivating showcase where her drawings not only showcased technical finesse but also transformed the exhibition space into a truly immersive experience. Guided by Jason, Lauren's artistic journey transitioned from classroom instruction to creating a dynamic visual narrative, leaving a lasting impact on Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) patrons. Jason further expanded Lauren's artistic horizons by taking her to festivals for artistic activations and encouraging her participation in art battles, contributing to her growth as a public art maker.

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Roses - Michael Moessner

Michael Moessner, a resident artist at Most Wanted Fine Art, underwent a transformative artistic journey under the mentorship of Jason Sauer. Embracing the ethos of upcycling cast-off materials, Moessner mastered the arts of carpentry and Spray Paint, delving into fonts, techniques, and the rules of graffiti. His education extended beyond the physical arts, encompassing a holistic approach during his tenure at MWFA (2016-2019).

Jason Sauer imparted invaluable lessons in community engagement, hands-on installation preparation, and program facilitation. This mentorship wasn't just about art creation but also about instilling the skills and mindset necessary for professional success. Jason's emphasis on artistic risk-taking within the community empowered Michael and fellow artists, encouraging them not only to conceptualize but actively contribute to the vibrant cultural tapestry of Garfield. As a testament to Michael's growth, five of his rose sculptures were purchased by the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation and displayed publicly on Penn Ave Arts District for five years. Moreover, Michael successfully exhibited his art during Miami Art Week, a testament to the professional development instilled by Jason's guidance.

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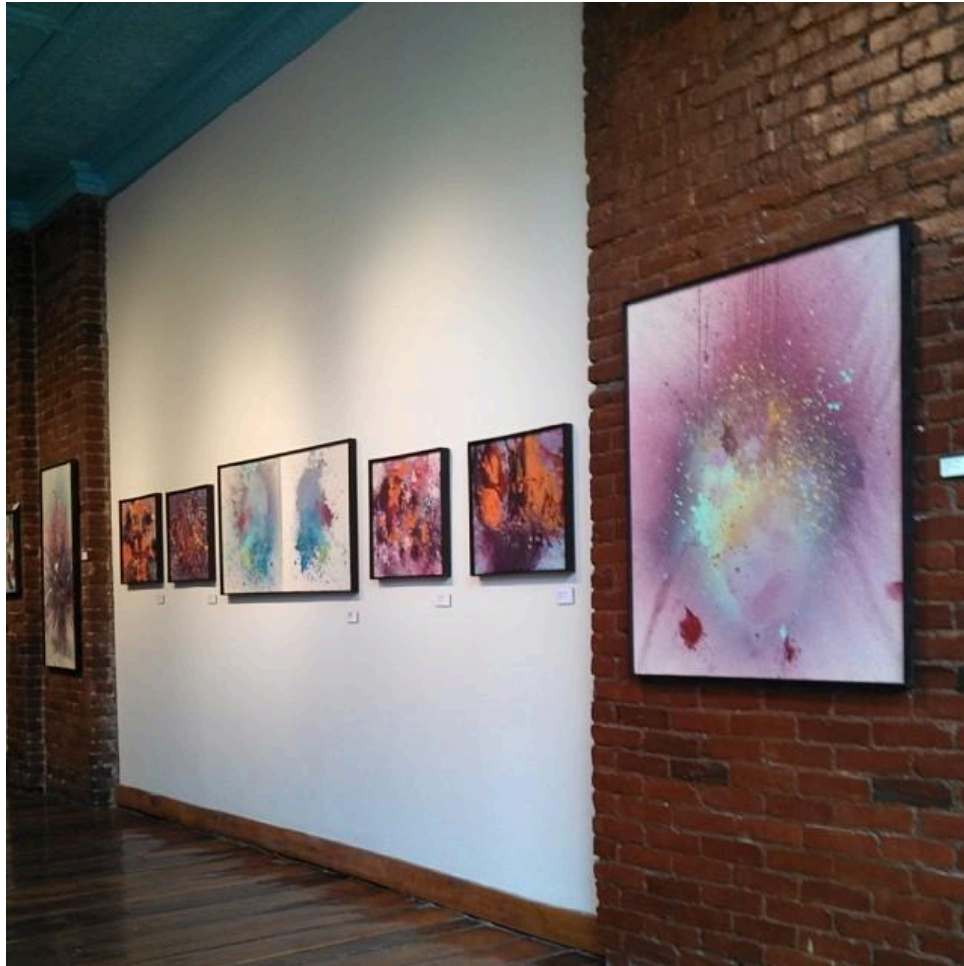
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SPLAT - Richard Jackley- 2014

Rich Jackley, a former student of Jason Sauer at the Community College of Allegheny County in 2006, embarked on a multifaceted artistic journey, exploring diverse classes with Sauer ranging from Art History and Printmaking to Drawing and Ceramics. In 2014, Jackley transitioned into a MWFA Resident Artist. Sauer provided hands-on guidance in installation preparation, and facilitating various programs. Emphasizing the importance of artistic risk-taking within the community, Jason played a pivotal role in assisting Jackley, in developing and realizing their artworks for exhibitions. In his solo art show, Jackley created hand-stretched canvases and shot them with paint out of a handcrafted potato gun, leaving destruction impact and color sprays. Remarkably, all the pieces sold during the opening, underscoring the unique and engaging nature of his work and the resonance it found with the audience. Following his time as a student, Rich Jackley continued to evolve as an artist, participating in national tours orchestrated by Jason, including prominent showcases at the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk and New York City. Jackley's artistic repertoire expanded to include installations, murals, set building, and studio assistance, demonstrating the diverse and comprehensive education he received under Jason Sauer's guidance.

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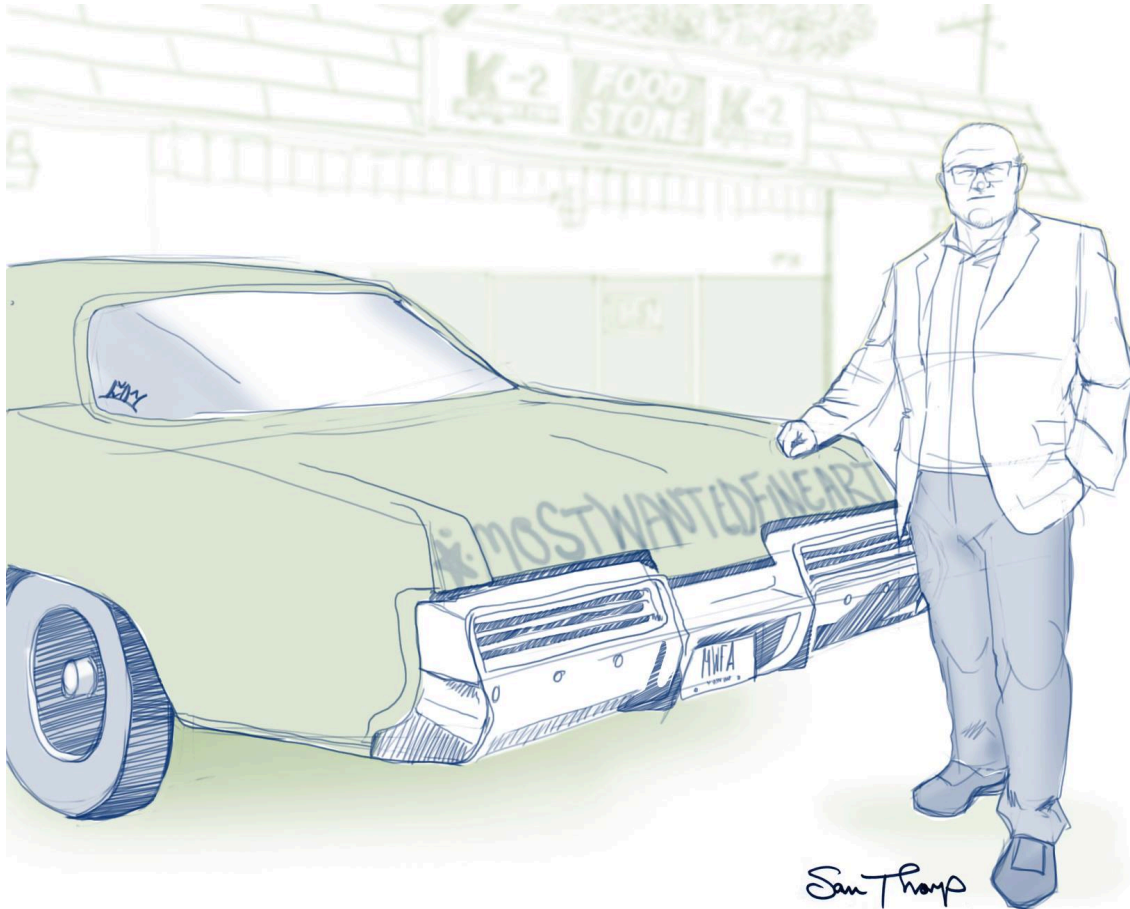
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Jason Sauer Car - Sam Thorp- Hand Drawing and Digital Media

Sam Thorp, a student of Jason Sauer at the Community College of Allegheny County in 2006, initiated a transformative journey into the world of art with a particular focus on Art History. In 2014, Thorp transitioned into a MWFA Resident Artist, a period during which Sauer's mentorship extended far beyond traditional instruction. Sauer provided invaluable lessons in community engagement, offering hands-on guidance in installation preparation and public art activities.. Sam Thorp's artistic focus is particularly evident in a striking collection of portraits that intricately capture the infinite diversity of human faces. This collection spans from locals in Pittsburgh to international figures, pop culture icons, and memorials to the departed.

Thorp's exploration of beauty in the human experience goes beyond traditional portraiture, aiming to create visibility for the under-represented and inviting contemplation. This powerful approach reflects the influence of Jason Sauer's immersive teaching, empowering artists like Thorp to not only conceptualize but also actively contribute to the vibrant cultural tapestry of Garfield. Through Sauer's guidance, Sam Thorp's art has become a conduit for expressing the richness of diversity and the depth of the human narrative.

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Students at Carnegie Library working on edition variables. - 2014

Throughout his career, Jason Sauer has been dedicated to making art accessible to all ages through a variety of easily accessible training and workshops. From the Carnegie Library system, Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, & public community events Jason has been a tireless advocate for spreading art.



Artwork created by detainees at Shuman Juvenile Detention Center- 2015

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Red Dot Miami, Miami Art Week 2023 D.S. Kinsel and Shawn Farester

Jason Sauer has emerged as a guiding force for resident artists D.S. Kinsel, Shawn Farester, Michael Moenessner, and Kai Devenitch, shaping their artistic trajectories through immersive experiences at Miami Art Weeks. Sauer's mentorship extends far beyond the confines of the canvas, as he imparts invaluable lessons aimed at fostering their professional development. One of the critical aspects of Sauer's mentorship is the emphasis on booth setup, display building, and the art of refining presentations. Recognizing the importance of the overall presentation in the competitive landscape of art fairs, Sauer ensures that his mentees not only create compelling artwork but also showcase it in a manner that captivates and resonates with the discerning audience at Miami Art Week.

Sauer's commitment to providing hands-on guidance goes beyond technical aspects, encompassing crucial skills in public speaking. By coaching artists on effectively communicating their artistic narratives, he equips them with the ability to engage with potential patrons and art enthusiasts. The exposure to Miami Art Week, a prominent and globally recognized art fair, becomes a transformative experience for these artists. The opportunity to showcase their work at such a prestigious event not only adds value to their portfolios but also exposes them to a broader network of art professionals, collectors, and enthusiasts.

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Killing Time- Carved Red Oak- Shawn Farester- 36"x16"x16

Shawn Farester, a classically trained sculptor with a BFA, has cultivated a diverse portfolio ranging from expansive outdoor sculptures to intricate portrait busts, each meticulously designed to convey emotion and meaningful messages through the human form. Having showcased his work in both state and national shows, Shawn draws inspiration from the artistic masters of the past, infusing timeless lessons into his creations. Under the mentorship of Jason Sauer, Shawn underwent a transformative journey as a resident artist, shifting from metalwork to woodwork. Jason not only introduced him to new techniques but also honed his focus on intricate details within his work, pushing the boundaries of size and medium.

Beyond the realm of sculpture, Jason Sauer's mentorship extended to comprehensive artistic development. Shawn learned valuable skills in art installation, community engagement, and public speaking, enriching his ability to communicate the essence of his creations. Jason's guidance further elevated Shawn's professional trajectory by exposing him to high-caliber art events, such as Miami Art Week, a prestigious and upscale art fair. This multifaceted mentorship has played a pivotal role in shaping Shawn's artistic journey, expanding his skill set, and positioning him as a dynamic and versatile sculptor in the contemporary art scene.

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"Shells Of Our Former Selves" - D.S. Kinsel, Most Wanted Fine Art in Pittsburgh, PA- 2015

During his artist residency at MWFA, DS Kinsel, recognized as an award-winning creative entrepreneur and cultural agitator, benefited from the mentorship and guidance provided by the influential figure Jason Sauer. This mentorship extended beyond the studio, with Sauer taking Kinsel on national tours multiple times, offering not only exposure to diverse artistic landscapes but also invaluable hands-on experience. Under Sauer's tutelage, Kinsel delved into the intricacies of gallery management, artist management, gallery installation, installation preparation, and community engagement, acquiring a comprehensive skill set.

During his first exhibit at MWFA during the Geek Art and Green Innovation Festival, Kinsel premiered "Shells Of Our Former Selves". These sculptural vessels are designed as a poignant exploration of personal growth and transitions in identity. DS Kinsel, also the co-founder of BOOM Concepts, continues to be a national treasure, actively contributing to the advancement of black and brown artists representing marginalized communities. Notably, Sauer remains an active mentor to Kinsel, further evidenced by their ongoing collaborations on exhibits, including notable appearances at Miami Art Week and involvement with The Black Demolition Derby Team. This enduring partnership underscores the lasting impact of mentorship and collaboration in the realm of contemporary art.

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MWFAXBOOM Concepts Black Demolition Derby Team

The MWFaxBOOM Black Demolition Derby team stands as a trailblazing force, reshaping the landscape of demolition derbies with a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and artistic expression. Led by skilled black driver Ty McClelland, supported by teammates Shok and Jake, this dynamic trio has actively participated in 17 derbies across the United States over two transformative years. In the traditionally homogeneous realm of demolition derbies, their presence challenges stereotypes and expands the horizons of representation. Ty's remarkable skills, often as the sole black driver in these events, underscore the project's mission of breaking down racial barriers and fostering community unity through the shared passion of motorsports. This pioneering effort not only transforms the face of demolition derbies but also serves as an inspirational example of the power of opportunity, support, and diversity in creating lasting impact within the sport.

Under Jason Sauer's guidance, Ty McClelland, the primary driver for the MWFaxBOOM Black Demolition Derby team, not only demonstrates exceptional driving skills but also actively engages in teaching every aspect of demolition derby and sculpture making. Jason's role as a teacher and mentor extends beyond the track, providing valuable insights into both the technicalities of demolition derby and the artistry involved in crafting sculptures from derby wreckage. Together, they have expanded the team, welcoming skilled drivers Shok, Jake, and Frzy, amplifying the impact of diversity with four black drivers actively contributing to the transformative journey of the MWFaxBOOM Black Demolition Derby team.

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Students at Sarah Heinz House & Manchester Academic Charter School~Middle School- 2017

In 2017, Jason Sauer took his passion for art and creativity to Sarah Heinz House, where he imparted engaging and dynamic graffiti art classes to middle school students. Through these classes, Sauer introduced students to the vibrant world of graffiti, teaching them essential spray paint techniques and rules while fostering a sense of artistic expression. Beyond the confines of traditional art instruction, Sauer injected an element of excitement by incorporating the thrill of demolition derby using RC cars. This innovative approach not only allowed students to explore the colorful and expressive nature of graffiti but also brought an element of playfulness and hands-on fun to the learning experience. Jason Sauer's commitment to fostering creativity and artistry in unconventional ways made the graffiti art classes at Sarah Heinz House a memorable and enriching experience for the middle school students involved.

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Princess Jafar performance

2016 MWFA resident artist Mario Josephine (Josie) Ashkar aka Princess Jafar is a queer trans Middle Eastern artist living and making work out of Pittsburgh, PA. Since 2012, Princess Jafar has worked with photography, filmmaking, video installation, documentary, spoken word, performance, illustration, and collage. Princess Jafar's photographic, documentary and video work use classic color theory, composition, narrative structures and character study while replacing the old white subjects with queer black trans protagonists and storylines. Her performance art, video installation work, spoken word, and collage attempt to heal the trauma of a childhood marked by physical neglect and verbal abuse from parents living with war-born PTSD and untreated mental illness. Currently Princess Jafar is a sought after host and performing artist working Nationally. "I use Princess Jafar's villainous nature to actually do good in the communities that have helped me become the artist and producer I am today. Hence my tag line "villain4good." The show might seemingly be all about me but I'm employing a cast of 20 Queer artists and creatives of color and raising funds or awareness for local organizations and issues." - Princess Jafar 2022

Within the Most Wanted Fine Art (MWFA) Artist Residency Program, Jason Sauer provided comprehensive mentorship to Princess Jafar, guiding her through various facets of their artistic journey. Through one-on-one sessions, he assists in conceptualizing and structuring their projects for exhibitions, offering insights into both artistic development and practical considerations. Sauer actively guided her through the installation process, ensuring their vision was effectively realized within the gallery space.