Arresting Patterns

Perspectives on race, criminal justice, artistic expression, and community

September 12–13, 2015
Yale University Art Gallery
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Dear friends,

What you are about to experience is the result of an extraordinary collaboration between Titus Kaphar—a local artist achieving international renown—and a group of scholars, activists, cultural organizations, and young people from New Haven Public Schools, as well as the Yale University Art Gallery and Artspace. We have come together around the idea that art can captivate the civic imagination, illuminate society’s challenges in ways not otherwise possible, and improve lives in our communities—culturally, socially and economically. It is through your presence and participation that the individuals taking the stage today are enabled to achieve the fullest expression of their vision.

In addition to my deepest thanks to you for engaging in much-needed conversations about racial injustice in our criminal justice system, I wish to salute all the people who worked to shape and mount the conference. Please join all of us after the last panel of the day for refreshments, conversation, and further inspiration and provocation at Artspace, where the Arresting Patterns exhibition is on view through this weekend.

Helen Kauder
Executive Director
Artspace
On behalf of the Yale University Art Gallery, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this important conference, “Arresting Patterns: Perspectives on Race, Criminal Justice, Artistic Expression, and Community.” It is both our pleasure and privilege to collaborate with artist Titus Kaphar and our colleagues at Artspace to bring the broader community of New Haven, university students, faculty, and staff, and residents of the city together in dialogue on issues surrounding art and criminal justice policy in the state of Connecticut. We have for many years respected Artspace as a catalyst for supporting art and creative discourse in our community, and we feel fortunate to strongly support an organization that serves the artists of today so well. We are grateful too for our continuing creative and educational collaborations with Kaphar, an artist of great talent and vision who deeply understands what it means to be a true citizen of this fair city.

The Gallery is a teaching museum that is always welcoming and freely available to all visitors for contemplation, discovery, and dialogue. We look forward to the conversations that will take place in our lecture hall during the two days of “Arresting Patterns” and beyond.

Jock Reynolds
Henry J. Heinz II Director
Yale University Art Gallery
Greetings, one and all, and welcome to New Haven!

On behalf of this vibrant city and its residents, I offer sincere wishes for a productive and enjoyable stay. You’ve wisely chosen a beautiful time to visit.

Your presence in New Haven considering law, criminal justice, and issues of racial inequality is fortuitous—we have local strategies addressing these topics that we think are worthy of your discussion.

One of these, called YouthStat, is a data-driven, cross-jurisdictional youth violence prevention effort among education, child protection, judicial, and social service agencies to identify and reach out to at-risk youth and proactively match them with the appropriate programs and services.

In another initiative, the chief of police meets regularly with local clergy for candid conversations about public safety and police-community relations, and to discuss how race factors into these matters.

Beyond these, the state, led by several New Haven advocates, revised its standards so 16- and 17-year-old offenders remain in the juvenile justice system, and a new state law enacting a “second chance society” is manifest in the city’s ex-offender re-entry program.

Recent, tragic events beg the conversations you’ll have this weekend. We’re delighted you’re here.

Toni N. Harp
Mayor
City of New Haven
We believe as a community, we can do better to empower men and women to rebuild their lives when they return home after prison.

Imagine...

a region where formerly-incarcerated individuals are empowered with opportunities to successfully rejoin their children, family and the community.

We look forward to creating a more welcoming community with you.
Artspace presents “Arresting Patterns,” a free, two-day interdisciplinary conference that aims to promote discussion on the interplay of race, criminal justice, artistic expression, and community.

Artists, policymakers, scholars, and activists address urgent questions raised by the companion exhibition, also titled Arresting Patterns, as well as the artwork created by participants in Artspace’s 15th annual Summer Apprenticeship Program. The discussions explore the direct and collateral consequences of mass incarceration on the community and the individual, criminal stereotypes, and the role that artistic expression can play in addressing these issues.

The conference is cosponsored by the Yale University Art Gallery and takes place in the Gallery’s lecture hall.

Both days conclude with a reception featuring poetry and book readings at Artspace. Please join us!

Join the conversation with #arrestingpatterns and follow our Twitter account, @APC_artspace.

To stream the conference live, go to arrestingpatterns.org/live-stream.
schedule

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

1:00–2:00 pm  Peer resource exchange
2:00–2:30 pm  Registration
2:30–2:35 pm  Opening remarks
2:40–3:50 pm  Panel 1: “Race in the Media”
4:00–4:55 pm  Community forum/round table
5:30–7:00 pm  Reception and live book reading at Artspace

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00–9:30 am  Registration
9:30–9:35 am  Opening remarks
9:35–10:35 am  Panel 2: “Differing Perspectives on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System”
10:40–11:40 am  Panel 3: “Stigma and Mercy”
11:45–12:15 pm  Breakout sessions
12:15–1:00 pm  Lunch break
1:00–1:25 pm  Student performance
1:30–2:00 pm  Keynote address
2:10–3:10 pm  Panel 4: “Family Matters: The Unintended Effects of Incarceration on the Families of Prisoners”
3:20–4:40 pm  Panel 5: “Decarcerating America”
4:40–4:45 pm  Closing remarks
5:00–7:00 pm  Closing reception and poetry reading at Artspace
event descriptions

Listed in chronological order

PEER RESOURCE EXCHANGE
Attendees have the opportunity to learn about local initiatives and interact with organizations committed to improving lives and driving social change. Held at the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale (221 Park Street).

RACE IN THE MEDIA
Panelists discuss how racial bias is portrayed in the news and popular media and examine the language used to describe crime and recent events. Panelists: Courtney Baker, Josh Kovner, Kenya (Robinson), Frances Robles, Kirsten West Savali
Moderator: Aliyya Swaby

COMMUNITY FORUM / ROUND TABLE
Community leaders in New Haven discuss the changing conversation about race in America and its impact on their communities. Panelists: Sabir Abdussabur, Barbara Fair, Amos Smith, Kyisha Velazquez
Moderator: Clifton E. Graves, Jr.

RECEPTION AND BOOK READING AT ARTSPACE
Members of the Malta Justice Initiative present a reading of The Justice Imperative by Brian E. Moran. Signed copies available for purchase. Held at Artspace (50 Orange Street).

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Panelists discuss racial disparities in the criminal justice system and the impact they have on the values underlying the system. Panelists: Shafiq Abdussabur, Dread Scott, Susan Shah, Stephen Glassman
Moderator: John DeCarlo

STIGMA AND MERCY
Panelists examine what it means to be labeled as a felon and discuss the lost concept of redemption in our society. Panelists: George Chochos, Matthew Croasmun, Linda Ross Meyer
Moderator: Leland J. Moore
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Attendees break up into small groups to visit artworks from Yale University Art Gallery's permanent collection. Gallery educators lead open discussions around each work’s composition and historical context, focusing on the representation of identity and power.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE
Participants in Artspace's 15th annual Summer Apprenticeship Program present an excerpt from their original play.
*Students*: Mya Baldwin, Katie Browe, Myles Davis, Dymin Ellis, Emanuel Luck, Gaylord Salters, Kayla Salters, Anthony Simpson, Ivory Smith, Jasmine Smith, Mama Soumahoro
*Lead artists*: Aaron Jafferis, Dexter Singleton

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Poet, educator, and lecturer Clint Smith reflects on art and activism as it relates to the current moment.

FAMILY MATTERS: THE UNINTENDED EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON THE FAMILIES OF PRISONERS
Panelists discuss how the incarceration of a family member has shaped their family life, ability to succeed, and relationship with their community.
*Panelists*: Donald Braman, Giselle Jacobs, Titus Kaphar
*Moderator*: Kumar Viswanathan

DECARCERATING AMERICA
Panelists discuss major movements in prison reform and the feasibility of reducing America's burgeoning prison population while preserving public safety.
*Panelists*: Maria Gaspar, Mark Holden, Glenn E. Martin, Scott Semple, Peter Wagner
*Moderator*: Vesla Mae Weaver

CLOSING RECEPTION AND POETRY READING AT ARTSPACE
Poets and writers read a selection of their works. Featuring Shafiq R. Fulcher Abdussabur, Ifeanyi Awachie, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Aaron Jafferis, and Dread Scott. Held at Artspace (50 Orange Street).
about the exhibitions

Two affiliated exhibitions on view at Artspace until September 13, 2015

ARRESTING PATTERNS
Curated by Sarah Fritchey with Titus Kaphar and Leland J. Moore

Organized in conjunction with the conference, Artspace presents a group exhibition of works created from the 1960s to the present that identifies both individual and group agents of race-based oppression. The artists account for these arresting and often overlooked patterns by using serial repetition as a strategy for articulating the sheer volume of the offenses at hand. Four of the eight artists whose work is on display are participating in the conference.

Dread Scott presents Stop (2012), a two-channel video produced with collaborator Joann Kushner that addresses the rise of youth criminalization in New York City and Liverpool after the cities implemented a “zero-tolerance” policy (fig. 1, page 17).

Iyaba Ibo Mandingo presents selections from Grave Markers Series (2014), which are installed to look out onto the street, so that they remain visible even when the galleries are closed. The works commemorate the countless black parents whose sons were murdered by a pattern of fear and hate (fig. 2, page 17).

Maria Gaspar presents digital prints from the Wretched and Paramount (Extreme Landscapes Series), (2014–15), which depict government-censored Google Map views of Cook County Jail in Chicago (fig. 3, page 17).

Titus Kaphar presents new work from his Asphalt and Chalk series (2014), which uses layering as a strategy for expressing difference within a shared situation and portraiture as a tool for confronting the relationships among public image, identity, and race (fig. 3, page 17).

15TH ANNUAL SUMMER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM: THE JEROME PROJECT
With lead artists Titus Kaphar and Collective Consciousness Theater

From June 30 to July 17, 2015, 18 student apprentices from 10 New Haven public high schools collaborated with lead artists Titus Kaphar and Collective Consciousness Theater to produce original works that further Kaphar’s
investigation into the U.S. criminal justice system. There is a striking intergenerational conversation between “Arresting Patterns” and the student show, which includes the following highlights:

Student teen apprentice Mekaylah Stricklin foregrounds her personal experience as a half-black, half-white woman, to develop a complex narrative around the stereotypes of race. Her subject position and voice resonates with Adrian Piper’s installation Safe (1990), currently on display in the main show (fig. 6 and 7, page 18).

Both Andy Warhol and student teen apprentice Arianna Alamo memorialize and appropriate iconic photographs that came out of the American Civil Rights Movement (fig. 5 and 8, page 18).

Laurie Jo Reynolds, co-organizer of Tamms Year Ten, and student teen apprentice Jasmine Smith present works that empathize with the daily plight of serving time in prison (fig. 9 and 10, page 19).

Student apprentices Myles Davis and Gaylord Salters explore how language can be twisted, invented, and performed to speak to a specific audience and tell a personal story; just as Jamal Cyrus’s Eroding Witness 7_a (2014) explores the relationship of history to authorship (fig. 11 and 12, page 19).

THE SUMMER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, 2001–2015

For 15 years, Artspace has helped teens harness their creative talents and explore their cultural identities. Mentored by professional artists, the students learn artistic and professional skills that prepare them to achieve their educational and career goals after graduation (see page 20).
Clint Smith is a teacher, poet, and doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He serves as a resident teaching artist in Boston Public Schools and as a writing instructor at Bay State Correctional Center in Norfolk, Massachusetts. Previously, he taught English at a high school in Prince George’s County, Maryland, where he was named the Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Humanities Council. His research interests include critical pedagogy, mass incarceration, the intersection of art and activism, how literacy shapes the formation of adolescent identity, and youth civic education.

Smith is a 2014 National Poetry Slam champion and an Individual World Poetry Slam finalist. He has also served as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. Department of State, conducting international workshops on cross-cultural understanding and youth empowerment. His TED Talk, a presentation of his spoken word poem, *The Danger of Silence*, has been viewed more than two million times, and was among the 20 most popular TED Talks of 2014. He has been profiled in *The Washington Post*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Root*, NBC News, and the book *American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom*. Clint earned a BA in English from Davidson College and is an alumnus of the New Orleans Public School System.
Sabir Abdussabur is the president and founder of Youth Day Projects, the director and founder of The Youth Revolution: International Youth Development, and the co-founder of Masked Maniacs. He grew up in the Beaver Hills section of New Haven and still resides in New Haven today.

Shafiq R. Fulcher Abdussabur is an author, public speaker, racial profiling consultant, entrepreneur, and law enforcement officer who has been written about in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and NPR. He is considered to be a national expert on urban gun violence prevention for his unique approach to community based policing.

Ifeanyi Awachie is a Nigerian-American writer. She studied English at Yale, where she was Artistic Director of TEETH, Yale’s slam poetry team. Ifeanyi also serves as a curator of AFRICA SALON.

Courtney Baker is Director of Africana Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of English at Connecticut College. She teaches courses in visual culture, critical theory, film, and African-American literature. She obtained her PhD from Duke University and her BA from Harvard University. She has published reviews in *Art Papers*, and her book, *Humane Insight: Looking at Images of African American Suffering and Death*, will be published by University of Illinois Press in September 2015.
Reginald Dwayne Betts is a poet and JD candidate at the Yale Law school. His first collection of poems, Shahid Reads His Own Palm, won the Beatrice Hawley Award. His memoir, A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison, was the recipient of the 2010 NAACP Image Award for nonfiction. Betts has been the recipient of the Soros Justice Fellowship, the Radcliffe Fellowship, the Ruth Lilly Fellowship, and two Pushcart Prizes. He was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Coordinating Council of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2012. He is a graduate of the MFA program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, the University of Maryland, and Prince George’s Community College.

Donald Braman is Associate Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. Prior to joining the faculty, he was the Irving S. Ribicoff Fellow at the Yale Law School. His article “Punishment and Accountability” was published by the UCLA Law Review in 2006. Braman is the author of Doing Time on the Outside: Incarceration and Family Life in Urban America, a compelling account of the unintended social, financial, and personal consequences of incarceration on the families of prisoners.

George Chochos is a third-year graduate student at the Yale Divinity School and an associate minister of the Union Missionary Baptist Church. George spent 11-and-a-half years in New York State’s prison system, during which he earned bachelor’s degrees from Bard College and Thomas Edison State College, as well as a master’s degree from New York Theological Seminary. Since his release in 2011, George has served as Chaplain and Assistant Director of Operations at the Capital City Rescue Mission, mentored at-risk youth, and collaborated with Albany County District Attorney David Soares on youth program development.
Matthew Croasmun is Lecturer of Theology & Humanities at Yale University and Director of Research & Publications at the Yale Center for Faith & Culture. He holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Yale University and an MAR from the Yale Divinity School. Matt is an ordained minister and serves as Staff Pastor at the Elm City Vineyard Church, a multiethnic church in downtown New Haven that he and his wife planted in 2007.

John DeCarlo is an associate professor at the University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. Previously, he was an associate professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He served as a police officer for 34 years, including as Chief of Police in Branford, Connecticut.

Barbara Fair, a community advocate for criminal justice and prison reform, is the founder of My Brother’s Keeper, whose mission is to educate community members about policies that impact their lives and inspire them to become involved in the policymaking process. She serves on New Haven’s Juvenile Review Board and was recently appointed to New Haven’s Community and Police Relations Task Force. A lifelong resident of New Haven, Fair received a master’s degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University.

Sarah Fritchey is a curator and writer based in New Haven. She is Curator and Gallery Director at Artspace, as well as a contributor to Artforum.com, Art New England Magazine, Big Red & Shiny, and the Hartford Advocate. Fritchey received an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College and a BA in Comparative Literature from Hamilton College.
Maria Gaspar is an interdisciplinary artist whose artistic practice negotiates matters of space and power. Using installation, sculpture, performance, audio, and community-engagement practices, she examines contested geographies to create new social codes. Gaspar’s ongoing series of community-engaged, site-responsive actions, 96 Acres, negotiates the impact of Chicago’s Cook County Jail on communities of color. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, among other places. She is Adjunct Assistant Professor in Contemporary Practices, Performance, and Art Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Stephen Glassman, a former state cabinet official and non-profit executive with a long history of working for human rights, joined the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut as its executive director in December 2014. From 2002 to 2011, he served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He was one of the first openly gay state cabinet officials subject to the confirmation process in the country. Steve received a BA from Brown University, an M.Arch from Yale University, and a post-graduate certificate from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Mark Holden is Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of Koch Industries, Inc. He is also President and COO of the Legal Division of Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC, which provides legal, government and public affairs services to Koch Industries, Inc. and its affiliates. In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors of Americans for Prosperity. Mr. Holden began his career with Koch Industries in 1995 as a litigation attorney.


FIG. 3 Maria Gaspar. Wretched and Paramount #1 (Extreme Landscapes Series; Google study of Cook County Jail in Chicago), 2014. Inkjet print. Courtesy of the artist.

FIG. 5  Mekaylah Stricklin. Tryouts (detail), 2015. Graphite and colored pencil on paper.


FIG. 8  Arianna Alamo. The Prophet (MLK), 2015. White chalk and mixed media collage on tar paper.


ARTSPACE SUMMER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM 15 years of helping teens to explore their cultural identities and develop the skills they will need to achieve their educational and career goals. Lead artist listed below year.
Giselle Jacobs, U.S. Army Veteran and lifelong resident of Hartford, is Founder and Executive Director of the Children of Color Organization, Inc. Before joining the nonprofit sector, she worked in the banking industry. Jacobs has also worked for several community organizations, including the Center for Human Development, where, as a Financial Counselor, she provided money management services to Connecticut’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its Hartford Young Adult Services Program. She is currently running for Mayor of the City of Hartford.

Aaron Jafferis is a hip-hop poet and playwright who helps direct Collective Consciousness Theatre. He teaches poetry and hip-hop theatre in schools, hospitals, health centers, community organizations, and detention centers. He is a recipient of a Creative Capital Award and the Richard Rodgers Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2014, Jafferis was an artist-in-residence at the International Festival of Arts & Ideas in New Haven. He received an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from New York University.

Titus Kaphar is an artist who lives and works in New Haven. A painter and sculptor, he engages deeply with the history of art in his artistic practice. He is a recipient of the Gwendolyn Knight and Jacob Lawrence Fellowship. His work has been exhibited at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Seattle Art Museum, and the New Britain Museum of American Art. Pieces from his ongoing series, The Jerome Project, were recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum. Select works from The Jerome Project are currently on view at Artspace. Kaphar received an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2006 and has been represented by Jack Shainman Gallery since 2014.
Helen Kauder is Executive Director of Artspace. After serving in senior positions in investment banking and business development at Citicorp and Yale University for 15 years, she co-founded City-Wide Open Studios in 1998. She has produced the annual festival for 15 of its past 18 years and organized other large-scale, participatory arts projects that mobilize the region’s diverse communities. She previously served as Deputy Director of the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. She has been a grant panelist for the NEA and IMLS, and served on the City of New Haven’s Cultural Affairs Commission. She is the recipient of the 2013 Elizabeth Mahaffey Arts Fellowship and the Greater New Haven Arts Council annual arts award. She holds a BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

Josh Kovner is a news reporter with over 30 years of experience. He covers issues relating to health, safety, and criminal justice in Connecticut. He was a member of the Hartford Courant’s Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage team on the 1998 Connecticut lottery killings, as well as a member of the Courant’s Pulitzer-finalist team for coverage of the Sandy Hook school shootings. Kovner writes a blog called Oversight.

Glenn E. Martin is Founder and President of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA), an organization dedicated to cutting the U.S. correctional population in half by 2030. Martin is a national leader and criminal justice reform advocate who spent six years in New York State’s prison system. Prior to founding JLUSA, he served for seven years as Vice President of Development and Public Affairs at The Fortune Society, one of the most respected reentry organizations in the country. He also serves on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Reentry and Reintegration Council and the advisory board of the Vera Institute’s Public Health and Mass Incarceration Initiative.
Linda Ross Meyer is a professor at the Quinnipiac University School of Law. She is the author of *The Justice of Mercy* and numerous articles on law, punishment theory, and philosophy. She is the former president of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities and a board member of the Malta Criminal Justice Initiative, which seeks to educate communities in Connecticut about criminal justice reform. Meyer received a JD and Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA from Kansas University.

Leland J. Moore is an attorney and Research and Policy Associate at the Connecticut Sentencing Commission. He also serves on the American Bar Association Lawyer’s Conference Executive Committee and the Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyer’s Section Executive Committee. Moore received a JD from the Quinnipiac University School of Law with a certificate in Criminal Law and Advocacy.

Kenya (Robinson) is a Brooklyn-based artist. She is a past resident of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s WorkSpace Program, the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. She has performed at the Museum of Modern Art, MoMA PS1, Rush Arts Gallery, and The Kitchen. The Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture acquired one of her works, *Commemorative Headdress of Her Journey Beyond Heaven*, in 2014. (Robinson) received an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2013.
Frances Robles is an award-winning national and foreign correspondent for the *New York Times*. Her investigation of the shoddy work of a Brooklyn homicide detective led to the overturning of six murder convictions and won a 2014 George Polk award. Her coverage of social justice issues has taken her from Ferguson, Missouri to Charleston, South Carolina to Latin America. She previously wrote for the *Miami Herald*, where she covered the Trayvon Martin case. Robles has been a member of two Pulitzer Prize-winning teams and a finalist for two more. She received a BA from New York University and was a 2004–05 Knight Fellow at Stanford University.

Dread Scott is a multidisciplinary artist. His work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA PS1, and the Walker Art Center. In 2012, the Brooklyn Academy of Music presented his performance *Dread Scott: Decision*. He is the recipient of a Creative Capital grant and a Pollock-Krasner grant, among other awards. His work is in the collection of the Whitney Museum and the Akron Art Museum. He works in a range of media, including installation, photography, screen printing, video, and performance.

Scott Semple is Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction. He joined the department as a frontline correctional officer in 1988 at the high security Cheshire Correctional Institution and has held key positions within the department ever since. In 2004, Semple was assigned to the Garner Correctional Institution, where he established the agency’s first consolidated environment for male offenders with significant mental health needs. In 2013, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Rehabilitative Services. He was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Correction earlier this year, after serving as Interim Commissioner for several months.
Susan Shah is Chief of Staff of the Vera Institute for Justice, where she works to advance the institute’s strategic direction and organizational performance. She also oversees Vera’s community policing projects, particularly those that focus on institutionalizing community policing, increasing community engagement in public safety problem solving, and improving police-immigrant relations. Prior to joining Vera, Shah was an associate in the immigration practice group of Bryan Cave LLP. She received a JD from Northeastern University School of Law, an MPH from Tufts University, and a BA in journalism from Drake University.

Dexter Singleton is Executive Director of Collective Consciousness Theatre, a New Haven-based multicultural theatre company dedicated to creating new American works that inspire social change. Dexter has led many organizations and schools across the country in original workshops and programming as a public speaker in the areas of racism, African American studies, culture, diversity, team building, and hip hop. Singleton is a playwright with six regionally produced works, a director, a producer, and an actor. He is also Head of Theatre at the Regional Center for the Arts in Trumbull and Director of the GHAA Summer Musical Theatre Workshop in Hartford.

Amos Smith is President and CEO of the Community Action Agency of New Haven, one of the largest social service agencies in the region. He was recently appointed to New Haven’s Community and Police Relations Task Force. He has served as a facilitator at the Community Leadership Program in New Haven. He holds a master’s degree from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.
Kyisha Velazquez is Program Manager of the Juvenile Review Board with New Haven Family Alliance, where she focuses on youth accountability, parental and youth rights, and educational advancement. She has served on the NAACP Youth Council, the City of New Haven Youth Commission, and the Board of Directors for Citywide Youth Coalition. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Walden University.

Peter Wagner is an attorney and Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative. His report, *Importing Constituents: Prisoners and Political Clout in New York*, helped launch the national movement to ensure that incarcerated individuals are counted in the U.S. Census as residents of their own home—not prison—addresses, in order to end the phenomenon of prison gerrymandering.

Kirsten West Savali is a senior writer for *The Root*. A writer and a cultural critic, her provocative commentary explores the intersections of race, social justice, religion, feminism, politics, and pop culture. A 2015 recipient of the Harry Frank Guggenheim fellowship, West Savali’s work has been featured on the websites of the *Huffington Post*, *Salon*, and *Ebony*, among other influential news outlets. She is currently based in Mississippi.

Vesla Mae Weaver is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and African American Studies and the Director of the ISPS Center for the Study of Inequality at Yale University. Her latest book with Amy Lerman, *Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control*, examines the effects of increasing punishment and surveillance on democratic inclusion in America, particularly for the black urban poor. She is currently a member of the Executive Session on Community Corrections. She received a Ph.D in Government and Social Policy from Harvard University.
Mayor’s Community Arts Grant Program

Supporting artists, organizations and neighborhood groups who contribute to New Haven’s cultural vibrancy.

City Of New Haven, Toni. N. Harp, Mayor

read rest reflect...
about artspace

Founded by artists in the mid-1980s, Artspace is a dynamic, non-profit organization dedicated to catalyzing artistic activities, connecting contemporary artists with audiences and resources, and activating new spaces for art.

Over the past 30 years, Artspace has organized exhibitions on some of the most urgent issues of our time. These topics have spanned the AIDS crisis (with the group exhibition *Interrupted Lives*, in 1991), the War on Terror (*Between Fear and Freedom*, 2002), immigration (*Mythical Nation*, 2003), globalization and the loss of manufacturing jobs in Connecticut (*Factory Direct*, 2005), and climate change (*Futurecast*, 2012). Touchstone programs like the annual City-Wide Open Studios, the Summer Apprenticeship Program, and our Flatfile Collection provide artists with unparalleled access to audiences, space, resources, and to one another.

All of our gallery exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public, and organized with a mindfulness to our diverse audiences.

To get involved, please contact Shelli Stevens at shelli@artspacenh.org.
We depend on the generosity of others to support our activities. Donations are fully tax deductible and can be mailed to Artspace or made online at artspacenh.org.

Thank you!

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LOCATION
50 Orange Street
New Haven, CT 06510

GALLERY HOURS
Wednesday and Thursday: 12–6 pm
Friday and Saturday: 12–8 pm
Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday: closed

CONTACT
203.772.2709
info@artspacenh.org
additional resources

BOOKS OF INTEREST IN THE ARTSPACE GALLERY


Collins, Mary (ed). The Naylor Project: Reflections from a Community. No ISBN.

Creative Capital. Creative Capital: Celebrating 15 Years of Investing in Artists Who Shape the Future. No ISBN.


FILMS ABOUT RACIAL BIAS, EXCESSIVE FORCE, AND MASS INCARCERATION


Wolff, Spencer (Director and Producer). STOP. Available at stopthefilm.org. 2014.


acknowledgements

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Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship
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New Haven Promise—Patricia Melton
New Haven Public Schools—Ellen Maust, Dolores Garcia Blocker, Judith Puglisi, Chaka Felder-McIntyre, Anne Brillante, Johanna Bresnick
Yale University—Karen King
Yale University Art Gallery—Joellen Adae, Pamela Franks, Elizabeth Harnett, Elizabeth Manekin, Jock Reynolds, Tiffany Sprague, Molleen Theodore, Elizabeth Williams, Stacey Wujcik

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Dexter Singleton
Aaron Jafferis
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Kayla Salters
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Jasmine Smith
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We commend Artspace for bringing passionate advocates and new voices to the vital and necessary conversation about race relations, mass incarceration, and concepts of justice through the framework of the arts.
Proud to support ARRESTING PATTERNS, a conference and exhibition at ARTSPACE.

Connecticut Humanities brings energy and vitality to cultural, historic and civic institutions. In the past two years, our grants and programs have enriched one million lives through thought-provoking projects like ARRESTING PATTERNS.
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