2015 RAC ARTIST FELLOWS

Diádié Bathily – Dance
Diádié (pronounced Jah-Jay) Bathily is the founder and artistic director of Afriky Lolo, a dance company established in 2003. For over 30 years, Diádié has been an accomplished dancer, choreographer, instructor and costume designer on stages in Africa, Europe and North America. With his specialty in West African dance, Diádié’s has conducted master classes and workshops and performed with or choreographed for such notable companies as the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (Denver), the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts & Humanities (East St. Louis), Ecole de Danse et d’Echange Culturel with Ms. Marie Rose Guiraud (Ivory Coast) and Broadway Dance Center (New York City). In addition, he has performed at the United Nations, the Village of Arts and Humanities in Philadelphia, and many festivals and events. Diádié is also the recipient of the N’gowa Prize for dance in Ivory Coast.

Cbabi Bayoc – Visual Arts
Cbabi (pronounced Kuh-bob-bi) Bayoc is an artist who has always known and lived his calling: creating art which reflects his love of music, family and community. This was, in fact, the reason he changed his name in 1997 from Clifford Miskell to Cbabi Bayoc. As a reminder of his purpose in life, Cbabi stands for “Creative Black Artist Battling Ignorance.” Bayoc was created to stand for “Blessed African Youth of Creativity” as the name he shares with his wife and children. Cbabi is a painter, muralist, illustrator and entrepreneur. His work has been featured in publications such as Essence Magazine and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as well as on posters, books, and album covers. Using social media to spread the message, Cbabi’s painting project “365 Days with Dad” showing positive images of black fathers has become his most recognized work to date. Among many accolades, Cbabi has been recognized by Metro Theatre as a St. Louis Game Changer, by The City of St. Louis with a Merit Award, and by SIUE’s Generations of Success Award.
Dwayne Bosman – Music

Dwayne Bosman is one half of the jazz duo the Bosman Twins. Along with his brother Dwight, he has been exhilarating audiences since he was 14 years old. He and his brother began their careers backing St. Louis locals like Fontella Bass, as well as touring artists like Hugh Masekela. Dwayne has shared the stage with Roy Ayers, Freddy Cole, Branford Marsalis, and Curtis Mayfield, to name a few. He is a master of flute and saxophone. As part of his Emmy Award-winning group, he is a true ambassador of music, particularly jazz. Whether Dwayne is performing in a duo, with the Bosmans’ quintet, or accompanying jazz greats, his renditions of jazz, R&B, funk, and gospel have gained him international recognition. His most recent accomplishment is the Bosmans’ new CD of original jazz compositions “When Lions Roar.”

Meghan Grubb – Visual Arts

Meghan Grubb makes sculpture, installations, photography and video that explore how powerful non-physical responses may be elicited by the experience of physical phenomena. Her work develops from practices in art and architecture, research into perceptual psychology, optics, and the natural environment. It reveals the unease in the relationship between humans and the physical spaces we inhabit. Meghan’s work has been exhibited in Norway, Finland, Spain, and Thailand, and at the Sculpture Center (Cleveland), the Shoshana Wayne Gallery (Los Angeles), Heaven Gallery (Chicago), and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art (Grand Rapids). She has received numerous awards and grants, including the American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship, Creative Stimulus Award, Alice Cole Award, and recent nominations for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant and Joan Mitchell Foundation Emerging Artist Grant. She has also been invited to participate in residency programs at the Wassaic Project (NY) and Vermont Studio Center.

Dawn Karlovsky – Dance

Dawn Karlovsky is the founder and artistic director of Karlovsky & Company Dance, a contemporary modern troupe dedicated to exploring and nurturing the art of dance with innovative choreography celebrating the human experience. Dawn is a prolific choreographer whose thought provoking, athletic, and emotionally candid dances have been commissioned and presented by universities, modern dance companies and theatre companies worldwide including in Chicago, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Beijing, China, and France. Dawn teaches modern dance and somatic studies at Washington University, in the Department of Dance at Webster University, and is on the dance faculty at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA). Dawn is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique.
Christopher Limber – Theatre Arts
Christopher Limber is an award-winning playwright, composer, director and actor. His career spans over 35 years of acting, directing and providing scripts, music and lyrics for theatres around the country, including The Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Childsplay Theatre in Phoenix, the Idaho Theatre for Youth, and many St. Louis based theatres including The Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, COCA, The St. Louis Science Center, and Young Audiences. For over a decade, he served as Education Director for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis where he oversaw all touring productions, which reached more than 20,000 students each season. His most recent Shakespeare inspired work is *Cruel to be Kind?*, an original script inspired by *As You Like It*, which uses Shakespeare’s life in 1599 to illuminate the subject of bullying. Chris is currently the Interim Artistic Director for Prison Performing Arts working with incarcerated adults and youth.

Travis Mossotti – Literature
Travis Mossotti serves as Poet-in-Residence at the Endangered Wolf Center in St. Louis. He was awarded the 2011 May Swenson Poetry Award by contest judge Garrison Keillor for his first collection of poems *About the Dead* (USU Press, 2011), and his second collection *Field Study* won the 2013 Melissa Lanitis Gregory Poetry Prize (Bona Fide Books, 2014). Mossotti has also published two chapbooks, and recent poems of his have appeared in issues of the *Antioch Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Southern Review*, and elsewhere. He teaches in the writing program at Webster University and works for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at Washington University.

Jeffrey Noonan – Music
Jeffrey Noonan is a performer and scholar whose work ranges from the 17th to the 20th centuries and from art music to popular music. His book, *The Guitar in America: Victorian Era to Jazz Age*, continues to receive scholarly and popular reviews. In St. Louis, Jeff served as Music Director for nearly ten years with the radio theater ensemble Holy Roman Repertoire Company, whose performances were heard on NPR stations from Florida to Alaska. For over thirty years Jeff has performed concerts across the Midwest on guitar, lute and other early plucked instruments and has presented papers about the guitar in America at conferences of the Society of American Music, the American Musical Instrument Society, and Music in Gotham (CUNY Graduate School). His most recent publication, a 2012 performing edition of trio sonatas by 18th-century composer Giovanni Bononcini, appears in A-R Editions’ *Recent Research in Music of the Baroque series*. 
Megan Singleton – Visual Arts / Craft & Traditional Arts

Megan Singleton creates installations that crisscross the boundaries of contemporary craft, combining sculpture, papermaking, and digital applications. Actively exhibiting nationally and internationally in solo and group exhibitions, her work explores the intersection of dendritic systems and patterns found in waterway, plants, and paths of travel. Megan serves on the advisory board of the hand papermaking organization Friends of Dard Hunter and is a member of the International Art Collective Expanded Draught, based in Galway, Ireland. She is adjunct faculty at Webster University where she teaches Papermaking and Studio Art Courses and has worked as a digital artist for Bruton Stroube Studios since 2005. She is currently the Fibers Artist in Residence at the Craft Alliance Center for Art and Design at Grand Center.

Denise Ward-Brown – Visual Arts / Media Arts

Denise Ward-Brown is a filmmaker and internationally exhibited sculptor whose art frequently explores African and African-American themes and history. While spending a year in Ghana, West Africa, as a Senior Fulbright Scholar, Denise developed her love of video as an art form. She has filmed her travels and research in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and South Africa. Among her first documentaries is Edina Bakatue (2003), filmed in Ghana, which follows an annual celebration of the opening of the lagoon to fishermen in the town of Edina. Farewell Old Lady (2004) explores the meanings of gestures and songs at an elaborate, traditional Ashanti funeral. It premiered at The Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis, Project Series 2003-04. It also earned the 2nd Place Documentary Award at the 2nd Annual Abuja International Film Festival in Nigeria. Most recently, she directed Jim Crow to Barack Obama, which received runner-up honors in the documentary category at the 2013 San Francisco Black Film Festival. It features inter-generational conversations between African American elders, who are at least 75 years old and grew up in the now-extinct era of Jim Crow, and youth ages 16-30. Denise has been an Associate Professor of Art at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University since 1996.

About the RAC Artist Fellowships

The RAC Artist Fellowships initiative was created based on the findings of the landmark 2012 Artists Count survey. It indicated that the most pressing need of regional artists was financial support in order to pursue their art and their careers. The goal of the fellowship is to advance the individual artist’s creative journey by providing funds to allow for time and space to study, reflect, experiment, explore and create. The RAC Artist Fellowships are awarded each year to ten St. Louis area artists of various disciplines to foster and invest in the careers of individual artists. The award amount is $20,000 for each fellow.
About the Regional Arts Commission www.racstl.org

The Regional Arts Commission (RAC) is at the forefront of efforts to transform St. Louis into a more vibrant, creative and economically thriving community by elevating the vitality, value and visibility of the arts. It is the largest annual funder of the arts in the region, and since its inception in 1985, RAC has awarded more than 6,700 grants totaling over $93 million to support nonprofit arts, individual artists, cultural organizations, consortiums and programs. Directed by a board of 15 commissioners appointed by the chief executives of St. Louis City and St. Louis County, RAC is a pivotal force in the continuing development and marketing of the arts in the region. Visit www.racstl.org for more information, or follow us on Facebook at Regional Arts Commission or Twitter @RACstLouis.