

Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler Workspace Program 2020

Jason Urban and Leslie Mutchler work collaboratively through an interdisciplinary, research-focused practice to explore the facts and fictions of pedagogy. Often working with paper, printmaking, and publishing materials, Urban and Mutchler consider the relationship between digital and analog technologies, as well as the so-called “sacred spaces” that house printed matter. They play with the role of color, signs, and symbols in producing scientific and spiritual inquiries. Through close examination and creation of folk items and rituals, Urban and Mutchler model alternative methods of teaching.

In their Folk Magic series, produced over the course of their residency at Dieu Donn , Urban and Mutchler built wooden altars that house handmade marbled fluorescent paper works. The altars incorporate printed backgrounds and UV neon lights, evoking an otherworldly digital space, while they sit on raw blocks of pink Himalayan salt, creating a tie to the natural, physical, and spiritual world. The handmade paper enclosed offers further ties to both the digital and analog; distorted letters on marbled paper recall calligraphy on ancient scrolls, while the stretched structure of the text suggests a computerized glitch. In bridging seemingly disparate worlds, Urban and Mutchler construct invented and anachronistically sacred objects and rituals.



Top: Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler, *Folk Magic 031 (To Banish Compulsive Fevers / Paper Talisman)*, 2022, Abaca sheet with linen pulp paint, digital print, salt dough and pigment beads, stones with pigmented cotton thread, birch/pine wood altar with phototex, UV lights, & acrylic, on Himalayan salt brick, 48 x 38 x 6 inches (paper size: 40 x 30 inches).

Bottom: Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler working in the Dieu Donn  studio.



About the Artist

Jason Urban and Leslie Mutchler have been working collaboratively since 2012; they live and work in Brooklyn, New York. The pair has had solo exhibitions at Center for Book Arts (New York, NY), Monaco (St. Louis, MO), the Delaware Contemporary (Wilmington, DE), NARS Foundation (Brooklyn, NY), Grizzly Grizzly (Philadelphia, PA), The Print Center (Philadelphia, PA), Centre for Fine Print Research (Bristol, UK), Space Gallery (Portland, ME), and Atelier Circulaire (Montreal, Canada), among others. They have been awarded numerous residencies including Edition/Basel in Basel, Switzerland, Cork Printmakers International Visiting Artist Residency in Cork, Ireland and the Workspace Residency at Dieu Donne in Brooklyn. They are affiliated with Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, NY) where Mutchler is Chair of the Foundation Program and Urban teaches in Communication Design.

About Dieu Donn 

Dieu Donn  is a leading cultural institution dedicated to serving established and emerging artists through the collaborative creation of contemporary art using the process of hand papermaking.

About the Workspace Program

Established in 1990, the Workspace Program offers annual residencies to New York State emerging artists to create new work in handmade paper. The primary goals of this program are to encourage emerging artists to explore the creative possibilities of handmade paper and to develop this art form through a process of collaboration and experimentation. The Workspace Program is presented to the public through an annual exhibition of works produced in this residency program, as well as through print, digital, and online formats. For more information about the Workspace Program, or to learn how to apply, visit www.dieudonne.org.

Support

The artistic and educational programs at Dieu Donn  are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and Foundation support including: Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., The New York Community Trust, The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, IFPDA Foundation, the Jockey Hollow Foundation, West Bay View Foundation, and the Windgate Charitable Foundation, along with major individual support.

Top: Jason Urban & Leslie Murchler, *Folk Magic 103 (To Stop The Bleeding / Paper Talisman)*, 2022, Abaca sheet with linen pulp paint, digital print, stones with pigmented cotton thread, birch/pine wood altar with phototex and UV lights on Himalayan salt bricks, 48 x 38 x 6 inches (paper size: 40 x30 inches)

Bottom: Jason Urban & Leslie Mutchler working in the Dieu Donn  studio.



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