

Smack Mellon

92 Plymouth Street @ Washington Street, Dumbo, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: 718.834.8761 | smackmellon.org | Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6pm
Contact: Jessica Holburn jholburn@smackmellon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Art Ready
Selected Work from the Artist Mentorship Program**

Exhibition Open: Wednesday, May 9 - Sunday, May 13



Image Art Ready at Smack Mellon, with curator Gabriel de Guzman, viewing Rudy Shepherd's installation, *Everything in the Universe is my Brother*, January 2018

Opening reception for students, mentors, family members, friends, and school staff:
Wednesday, May 9, 6-8pm

Smack Mellon is pleased to announce the opening of *Art Ready: Selected Work from the Artist Mentorship Program*. The exhibition presents the work of students who participated in the 2017-2018 session of Art Ready, Smack Mellon's arts mentorship program for high school students interested in pursuing a career in the visual arts. This year students worked with professional artists who specialize in painting, drawing, sculpture, jewelry-making, graphic design, and videography. During the spring semester students have experimented with practices such as paper casting, figurative drawings, sculpture, printmaking, collage, and magazine branding. Included in the show will be an impressive range of media such as painting, animation, and a fashion show among others.

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This year the participating students are Andrea Astudillo, Shennelle Bingham, Maryam Chadury, Atiyah Dayes, Awa Doumbia, Giordalis Fabre, Gillian Goris, Maximus Harrell, Cheyann Hep-burn, Endie Hwang, Daphne Knouse, Jhanique Lovejoy, Emmanuel Lugo, Melody Marte, Briani Questelles, Kristina Rodriguez, Femi Shonuga-Fleming, and Marcos Williams. The artist mentors are Claudia Bitran, Michael Paul Britto, Heejung Cho, Esperanza Cortes, Beth Dary, and Philip Shung.

Art Ready is a mentorship program designed to give students the opportunity to experience firsthand what it is like to be a professional working in a visual arts discipline. Students are exposed to a wide variety of artists and arts professionals, participate in mentorships, and visit museums and galleries. This year, the Art Ready group took field trips to such cultural venues as A.I.R., Art in General, and Minus Space. Individual mentor groups' excursions included the Met Breuer, Sharpe-Walentas Studios, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Read more about students' and mentors' experiences on the Art Ready blog: smartready.wordpress.com.

Smack Mellon's mission is to nurture and support emerging, under-recognized mid-career and women artists in the creation and exhibition of new work, by providing exhibition opportunities, studio workspace, and access to equipment and technical assistance for the realization of ambitious projects. We see ourselves as a vehicle whereby under-represented artists can create, explore and exhibit their creative ideas outside the concerns of the commercial art world, offering many artists the exposure and recognition they deserve. In 2007, Smack Mellon initiated Art Ready to extend its artistic services to creative high school students.

Smack Mellon's Education Programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, New York City Council Member Stephen Levin, and with support from Select Equity Group Foundation, Exploring The Arts and Smack Mellon's Members.

Smack Mellon's programs are also made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor M. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, and with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The New York Community Trust, The Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund of The New York Community Trust, The Roy and Niuta Titus Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Robert Lehman Foundation, The Greenwich Collection Ltd, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation Inc., Iorio Charitable Foundation, and Smack Mellon's Members.

Space for Smack Mellon's programs is generously provided by the Walentas Family and Two Trees Management.

In-kind donations are provided by Artist & Craftsman Supply, Costco, Fairway, Trader Joe's, and by Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/NYC Department of Sanitation/NYC Department of Education. Special thanks to Downtown Community Television.

