



Barstow Artist-in-Residence program

Each year The Barstow Artist-in-Residence program provides a residence, studio and university resources to a professional working artist. As the artist-in-residence dedicates time to their studio practice and research, they also engage directly with students through mentorship, individual workshops, studio visits and exhibition opportunities.

While in residence, each artist conducts their research and practice in the Barstow House studio and is provided full access to university resources. In turn, students gain direct access to each artist in their practice and develop a first-hand understanding of artistic practice.

Since 1993 the Stephen L. Barstow Artist-In-Residence program has brought over a dozen early and mid-career artists in a variety of disciplines to the CMU Department of Art & Design for semester to year-long residencies. Many of these artists have distinguished regional and national exhibition records.

The position includes a stipend and private housing surrounded by nature on the banks of the Chippewa River. The house provided for the Artist-in-Residence was designed by noted architect Stephen L. Barstow and is located 15 miles from Mt. Pleasant, and includes a studio built for teaching and personal practice.

Applications for the residency are reviewed in February and March each year and application information can be found on the CMU website under Job Postings, or the CAA website.

Current Artist-in-Residence:

Monsur Awotunde



STATEMENT

My works explore the themes of home, travel, desire and memory. In my current work, I am engaging with the idea of absence and presence. The absence of some of the most basic and important things to us when we are relocated into a new place and the presence of their substitutes. I explore this idea through my Yoruba tribal Nigerian meals as a cultural element and identity.

In this body of work, I am interested in food as an essential commodity for human. Interestingly, food business has been my mother's business for over two decades where she owns and sells Yoruba Nigerian foods in a community in Lagos, Nigeria. The abundance of these native meals at home in Nigeria and other places I have briefly lived abroad in comparison to the inaccessibility of these specific meals here in Gainesville has particularly inspired my current paintings.

However, the subject does not only include the food itself but also some family members and even friends that prepared these meals back home. At this point, the absence of these people and meals in my new environment have become a part of my subject matter inspiring the themes of desires, nostalgia, replacement and cultural identity.



B I O

Monsur Adeniyi Awotunde was born in Igbo Ora, Oyo, Nigeria. He attended The Polytechnic Ibadan and Auchi School of Art in Nigeria. Awotunde received his BA at the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom and MFA at the University of Florida, United States.

Monsur Awotunde

Past Artists-in-Residence

We've brought dozens of early and mid-career artists in a variety of disciplines to our department for semester to year-long residencies, including:

Hannah Perrine-Mode

Mary Claire Becker

Merav Tzur

Chris Maddox

Margaret Murphy

Andrew Ranville

Daren Kendall

Maria Michails

Jill Marie Mason

Andrea Myers

Kerri Cushman

Ambreen Butt

Frances Hynes