



GIVING BACK

PROFILE: Kate Herzog

by Dana Mattice

Kate Herzog is a creative entrepreneur who tirelessly works to promote and sell the wares of African artisans.

Her business, House of Talents, operates out of Artpace's Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art.

Born and raised in Ghana, Herzog immigrated to the United States in the late 1990s—specifically, Minnesota, where her husband is from. Herzog had seen, in the small village she came from, many people working very hard to only just get by. "Poverty strips people of their dignity and aspirations," Herzog said, and she wanted to give back. She eventually left her day job for business school, and founded House of Talents in 2009.

The concept? Work with people experiencing poverty in developing nations, and connect them to people who have access to resources. Herzog is passionate about the artisans she serves, stating that they "are not defined by poverty but by their talents, vision, aspirations, and capabilities." House of Talents is intended to promote and nurture those attributes, selling hand-crafted baskets, jewelry, textiles, soaps, and housewares.

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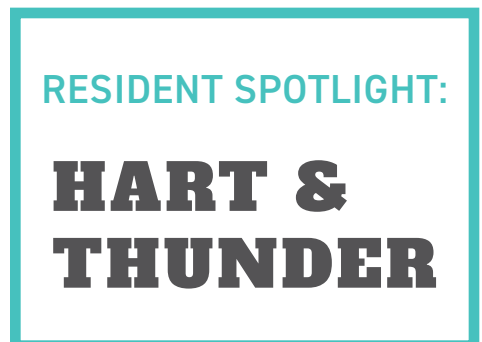
IMMERSION TWIN CITIES



RECAP: EL PASO GRAND OPENING



NOW LEASING: MEMPHIS & MESA



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:

HART & THUNDER

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SPECIAL FEATURE

HOLIDAY EVENT ROUNDUP

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The University of St. Thomas was a successful business incubator for Herzog, providing an office and all the accoutrements so that she did not incur too much debt while she tested her idea. She first analyzed how to define poor, and explains it as a lack of money for basic necessities like food, medications, and school. To serve people experiencing poverty, Herzog traveled to where they were in Ghana and Mali, and spent two months interviewing people, getting to know many of them intimately. She wanted to be sure that they even needed her help, and that they defined their own needs. For example, she had hoped to bring literacy, but found that healthcare was most desired.

Herzog found many people who were great at their craft but not making enough money to care for their families via the regional marketplace. House of Talents helps tailor artisans’ existing products to match the global marketplace—for



example, encouraging artisans to make bicycle baskets. It started with one family of five making baskets, and eventually grew to an organization working with some 1,500 artisans. The organization analyzes the quality of the grass to be sure it can withstand water and hold weight; advances the artisan 75% of the money to create the product; employs an operational manager to analyze the work; sends trucks for pick-up and mailing; and pays the artisans the additional 25% after it mails. In the first year, House of Talents was able to purchase healthcare for 500 as a benefit. When it profits, it has also been able to provide libraries and scholarships to children.

Herzog quickly outgrew the classroom at the university where she was organizing the shipping of baskets and products, and worked out of a warehouse for a while—but it eventually

needed the space back. Artspace’s Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art was the answer, which her friend and colleague found on Craigslist. Herzog loved the space and the presence of artists in the building, as House of Talents’ products are also art. Today, in addition to an abundance of baskets, Herzog showcases textiles from Mali, wooden bowls from Southern Ghana, handmade giraffes from Madagascar, and much more. The ample space also allows Herzog to display bios and photos of the artisans, so that shoppers can further connect with the craftspeople.

The House of Talents showroom is in the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art at 250 Third Ave N, Minneapolis MN 55401, open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, visit houseoftalents.com



Kate Herzog at House of Talents

SPECIAL FEATURE

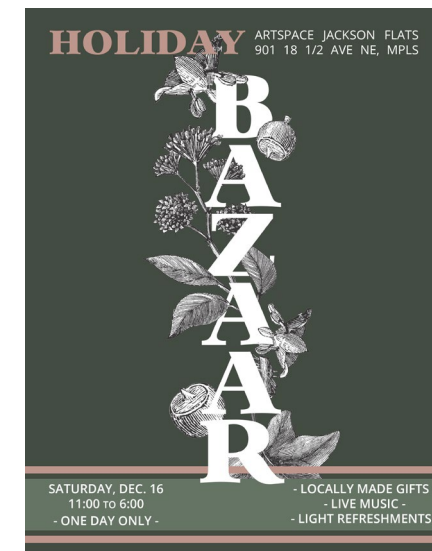
HOLIDAY EVENT ROUNDUP



Resident Artists of the Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts. Photos by Donna Day.

ARTS MARKETS

- **FRIDAYS, DEC. 1 - 17: Holiday Gift Shop & Gallery Show**
Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN 46360
- **DEC. 7: TK Lofts 13th Annual Open House** 6:00PM - 10:00PM
115 Prefontaine Place S
Seattle, WA 98104
- **DEC. 8: Artist's Holiday Potluck** 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Read's Artspace
1042 Broad St, Bridgeport, CT 06604
- **DEC. 9: 21st Holiday Exhibit and Open Studios** 10:00AM - 5:00PM
Washington Studios, 315 N Lake Ave
Duluth, MN 55806
- **DEC. 9 & 10: Holiday Boutique** 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Harvester Artist Lofts, 1000 S Main St, Council Bluffs, IA 51503
- **DEC. 14: Good Night Market** 6:00PM - 9:00PM
Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art, 1250 Third Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- **Dec. 16: RedHot Art Market** 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Chicago Avenue
Fire Arts Center, 3749 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis MN 55407



- **DEC. 8 - 30: Glutton for Punishment Ceramic Works by Liam Calhoun**
Artspace Buffalo Gallery 1219 Main St
Buffalo, New York 14209
Opening Reception, Dec.8 at 6:00PM
- **DEC. 9: Lori Charest: 9 Ladies Dancing Reception & Artist Talk**
Kaddatz Galleries,
111 W Lincoln Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Reception Dec. 9, 2:00PM - 4:00PM
- **Dec. 16: Holiday Bazaar**
11:00AM - 6:00PM Artspace Jackson Flats
901 18 1/2 Ave NE,
Minneapolis MN 55418
- **Dec. 21: Everett Art Walk**
6:00PM - 9:00PM Artspace Everett Lofts,
2917 Hoyt Ave, Everett, WA 98201

WINTER EXHIBITIONS

- **DEC. 1 - 10: Personae: Portraits of Personal Fiction**
Artspace El Barrio PS109
215 E 99th St
New York, New York 10029
Reception, Dec.1 at 6:00PM



Photography by Carlos David
(Personae: Portraits of Personal Fiction)



HART & THUNDER

Jonathan Thunder & Tashia Hart

by Dana Mattice

Tashia Hart and Jonathan Thunder circled each other for years before they crossed paths. Hart—who is a jeweler, novelist, ethnobotanist, biologist, and forager—was born in Los Angeles and raised on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota. Thunder, a painter, animator, and book illustrator, was born on the same reservation but grew up in the Twin Cities. They both lived in Duluth at times, and in the Twin Cities at times—among stints out of state for each (Wyoming for her; New Mexico for him). It took an event in 2014 at the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), “Biiboon Bimaadizimin” (or “Winter Good Life”), for them to finally cross paths.

Today, the creative couple makes a home together at ArtSpace’s Washington Studio Artist Cooperative in Duluth’s Central Hillside neighborhood. Living with another creative person feeds their individual practices. Thunder said that they often ask for each other’s opinions, both from a creative standpoint and from the business model side of things. Hart commented on how valuable it is to live with someone who understands the artist lifestyle, in which “you’re your own boss. You have to be self-driven and productive.”

Thunder’s large-scale paintings mix Anishinaabe stories with dreamscapes and contemporary environments, all created in his unmistakable,

graphic style. A recent solo exhibit at the Duluth Art Institute traveled to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, and is next headed to the MacRostie Art Center. He also just closed a joint show with Karen Savage Blue at All My Relations Gallery. Currently, Thunder is illustrating three books, including a children’s tale for the Minnesota Historical Society—“Bow Wow Pow Wow,” by Brenda J. Child—about a girl who dreams of an Ojibwe pow wow starring dancers who are inexplicably both human and canine. Also on the horizons is a mural project, in collaboration with the College of St. Scholastica and the Lincoln Park Middle School, which will be installed on the storefront of an upcoming coffee shop by AICHO, slated to open in Duluth’s burgeoning Lincoln Park Craft District. In addition, Thunder co-chairs Washington Studios’ gallery and is active in promoting the work of other artists.

“Community is a big thing, especially for artists.”

Hart is also incredibly engaged in multiple creative disciplines. Growing up she was steeped in traditional indigenous food, and her upbringing tied in to her scholarly interests as she studied biology and plants in college. She briefly worked as a culinary ethnobotanist for the Sioux Chef, bringing in new wild ingredients and creating new recipes—and she reached a vast audience with her appearance on PBS’ “Family Ingredients,” in which she helps a featured guest reconnect with fiddlehead ferns. Hart is also developing cooking classes for AICHO and creating an educational website featuring indigenous food. While she is “in the kitchen a lot,” though, Hart said that she considers herself foremost a forager and writer. Her first book, “Girl Unreserved,” is a partial memoir created as a healing process for herself, but which she made available on Amazon when she was advised that other women and women’s groups could find value in it. Today she is working on a young adult novel which combines her love of indigenous food within a broader, magical realism narrative. The work in progress, as yet untitled and set in Duluth, features a homeschooled, somewhat-isolated Anishinaabe girl who eventually encounters a tiny man on a floating island, and is herself shrunk. The characters go on a journey involving helping plants, animals, and spirits, leading the girl to discover a sense of place and belonging to a broader world.

Hart and Thunder are both very focused in their artistic practices. While they work in the same space, they often don’t speak for hours. When they take a break, though, they look at each other’s projects, encourage each other, and tell jokes. Moving forward, they are also looking for ways to merge their creative skillset, and are considering matching her storytelling with his art making in a book. They recognize that their artistry has a lot in common, as both blend unique fictional storytelling with traditional Ojibwe tales that they heard growing up.

Hart and Thunder also both appreciate the broader community that living in an ArtSpace building brings. Thunder said that “community is a big thing, especially for artists,” and called working at Washington Studios a “liberating experience.” A more recent addition to the building, Hart also became quickly at home. She called the place “amazing,” adding that it is “so conducive to creative endeavors and networking.”

The public is invited to visit both Hart and Thunder—as well as many other artists—from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 at Washington Studio Artist Co-op. Various artist studios will be open throughout the building and the gallery, recently re-branded as 315 Gallery, will feature the 21st annual holiday exhibit, “Home is Where the Art is.” Live performances and arts and crafts vendors will also participate in the day’s celebrations. The event is free and open to all.



WASHINGTON STUDIOS
ARTIST CO-OP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
10:00AM - 5:00PM

- Open Artist Studios
- Exhibition at 315 Gallery:
Home is Where the Art is
- Live Performances
- Arts & Crafts Vendors

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

315 N LAKE AVE,
DULUTH MN

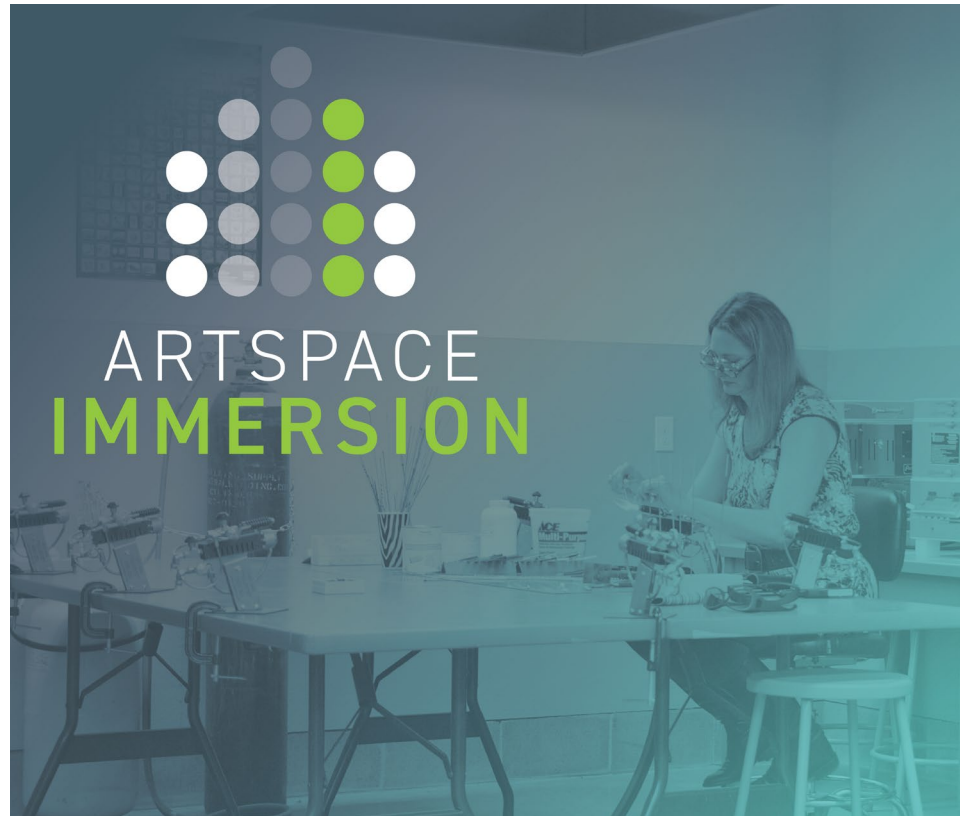
Left: Tashia Hart; Above: Jonathan Thunder
Photos by Dana Mattice

PROGRAM NEWS

The Artspace Immersion program is back and launching initiatives in three new cities, starting with Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota! The free program is an 18-month cohort for arts, creative, and cultural organizations to advance their facility and space-related goals.

The program will meet monthly, bringing together arts and cultural organizations in various stages of facility and real estate planning. Cohort participants will build skills, strengthen their networks, and receive technical assistance to advance their space-related initiatives. The program immerses participants in Artspace's mission-driven, artist-led process and connects them with experts in the field. Artspace draws upon its three decades of developing, operating, and consulting on affordable arts facility projects across the country as it assists cohort participants.

Artspace Immersion will provide participating organizations with consulting services from Artspace, which can include pro forma development, document review, site tours, ongoing mentorship throughout the program, and workshops. Visit our webpage for more information, and to learn how to apply. Deadline: December 15, 2017.



PROPERTY NEWS



RECAP: EL PASO GRAND OPENING

The Roderick Artspace Lofts celebrated its Grand Opening October 26, in coordination with the final Last Thursdays art crawl of the season in El Paso, Texas. The event had fantastic attendance despite windy weather, attracting an audience of some 250. Event attendees enjoyed activities in the building's vibrant commercial spaces, as well as a range of outdoor performances from aerial performance, to rock 'n' roll band, to opera. An exhibition took place in the community gallery, and many artists held open studios. The Grand Opening showcased how this new property is becoming a cornerstone of the artistic community in downtown El Paso.

Artist Aaron Torres, a local musician and fashion designer, captured the day's sentiments best. His speech was met with resounding applause after he expressed what the new property meant to the local arts community and the city of El Paso, stating that, "as creators, we are often displaced from societies' norms and labeled as 'starving artists', 'weirdos', and 'eccentrics'. As an eccentric weirdo artist, I would like to proudly proclaim that Roderick Artspace Lofts is not a hub for local starving artists, but a platform to further our communities of striving, creative entrepreneurs and cultural movers and shakers."

NOW LEASING

South Main Artspace Lofts

Artspace is currently accepting applications for our new project in Tennessee: South Main Artspace Lofts. Located in Memphis' South Main Historic Arts District, the property is located near boutiques, coffee shops, galleries, and restaurants, as well as noteworthy attractions like the National Civil Rights Museum. If you're an artist or creative who is looking to live in a creative community with amenities that complement an artist lifestyle, this could be the perfect place for you. [Learn more.](#)

Mesa Artspace Lofts

Join us at the Volstead December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for our third and final information session before applications are released on January 5, 2018! Mesa Artspace Lofts is the new, affordable live/work housing development for artists and their families in Arizona. Located in downtown Mesa on Hibbert, south of Main, the property is conveniently located near the light rail, the Mesa Arts Center, and more. These live/work lofts will provide critical affordable housing for creatives in dynamic downtown Mesa. [Learn more.](#)

