

DREAM MURALS

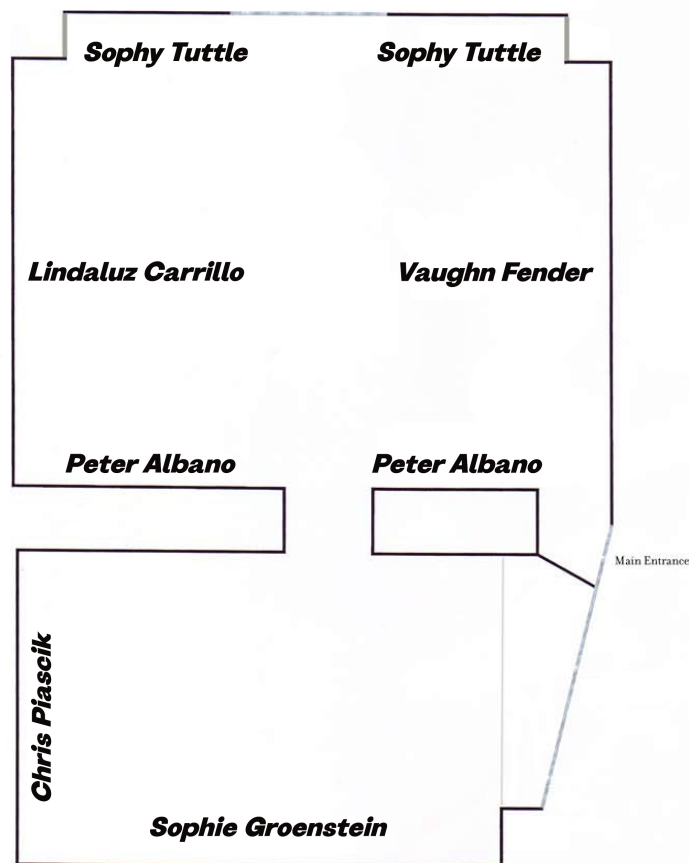
Public Art with
Hartford Art
School Alumni

THE ARTISTS

Peter Albano (BFA '09), also known as Paco Winebox, is a Hartford-based artist, curator, and gallerist. After receiving his BFA, Winebox spent 18 months spelunking Hartford's underground Park River and producing documentative/interpretive work mapping the riverway under a project titled The Hog River Revival. Later, Winebox became a resident muralist and sculpture artist at Wild Bill's Nostalgia in Middletown, CT. In 2021, he founded The Arts Industry and Loading Dock Gallery in West Hartford, and is now the Visual Arts Manager at Real Art Ways. Winebox is a recipient of a 2014 Arts Catalyze Placemaking Grant, 2016 Regional Initiative Grant, and 2023 Artist Fellowship Grant.

Lindaluz Carrillo (BFA '16), also known as Airis, is a first-generation Afro-Peruvian multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She/they blend graphic design, sculpture, painting, and graffiti elements to tell stories. Carrillo transforms spaces from lived memories, experience, and interactions. In recent years, she/they have focused on topics such as compassion, resilience, identify, and grief by connecting lines that weave their spiritual and cultural roots to the world around them. Her/their visual landscape is an interlude of love, resilience, and liberation.

Vaughn Fender (BFA '05) is a multidisciplinary artist born in Kingston, Jamaica and based in Connecticut. He uses drawing, collage, and printmaking to explore cultural identity. His background in graphic design and printmaking leads to bold, high-contrast storytelling, drawing from an array of inspirational memories, Dancehall music, Patois, HipHop, Caribbean Folklore, and the fetishized island landscape. The formal and abstract outcomes seek to embody the energy and spirit of these influences, creating a visual dialogue that resonates with viewers in layers as deep as the human experience. Fender's work continues to evolve, reflecting his ongoing exploration of identity, culture, and the stories that connect us all.



Sophie Groenstein (BFA '22) paints New England and beyond, finding inspiration by celebrating the warmth of individuality when creating her expressive portrait illustrations and murals. Her distinctive style emanates positivity and expresses the vibrant spirit of her surrounding community. Through her dynamic color palette, Groenstein represents communities of all backgrounds within her work and seeks out opportunities to share their stories. She aspires to pursue her artistic endeavors by giving back to her community through the creation of public art, lovingly and professionally. Groenstein enjoys finding new ways to challenge herself, push creative boundaries, and add to her craft.

Chris Piascik (BFA '05; MFA '15) began his career as a graphic designer at award-winning studios in New England before accidentally becoming an illustrator. This shift was fueled by a 14-year daily drawing project. His quirky illustrations have attracted clients like Nike, Nickelodeon, and Cartoon Network, and his work has appeared on everything from McDonalds bags to Facebook sticker sets. Piascik is a SkillShare Top Teacher and a YouTuber, sharing his insights and humor with a growing audience.

Sophy Tuttle (MFA '19) is an English-born American muralist and installation artist. Her work celebrates nature and creates new narratives that explore regenerative culture-building among humans and all other forms of life. Tuttle received her BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design in 2008. She also holds a certificate in Graphic Design from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (2015) and a Master's in Interdisciplinary Art from the Hartford Art School (2019).