

THE BARRE MONTPELIER
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Artist Austin Furtak-Cole: 2020-21 SPA Studio Resident Staff Report



Austin Furtak-Cole: "Stones of Historical Significance"
Courtesy of the artist

Studio Place Arts (SPA) has selected artist Austin Furtak-Cole to participate in its annual Studio Residency Program, now in its sixth year. Furtak-Cole is a painter from Vermont who received his master's of fine art from Stony Brook University, New York, where he received the Provost's Award.

Among his extensive show experience, Furtak-Cole exhibited at Denise Bibro Fine Art while residing in New York City. He subsequently participated in the Sam & Adele Golden Foundation Artist Residency Program in central New York, an opportunity for professional artists to investigate a variety of art materials, and one that Furtak-Cole described as “the most productive time in my career as an artist.”

Living in the rural hillsides near Barre, Furtak-Cole finds inspiration from the natural world, but remarked, “It also lacks the social interactions that used to influence my paintings when I was in New York City. I believe having a studio in a more central, populated area would help in refueling that source of inspiration as I continue my ongoing development as an artist.”



“Boards” (courtesy of the artist)



“Pass Go” (courtesy of the artist)

The SPA Studio Residency Program fills several essential requirements for artists early in their careers. The 11-month opportunity affords emerging artists with access to an extensive community of visual artists and the chance to integrate making art in their daily life through having a dedicated workspace. The program offers a private studio on the second floor of the arts center and a scheduled six-week exhibit for a new body of work developed during the residency, which will take place in the fall season of 2021.

Reflecting on the work that will be explored further at SPA, Furtak-Cole explained, “My current work has developed out of creating a personal iconography. This ever-evolving iconography includes, but is not limited to hands, heads, feet, rocks, plants, bricks, boards, clouds ... through the juxtaposition of these forms, use of color and composition I paint odd, ambiguous scenes that become primed for meaning.”

Go online to www.studioplacearts.com for more information.