

CHROMA ZONE MURAL FEST 2023 : ARTIST BIOS

Hend Al-Mansour (Saint Paul)

hendalmansour.com

Hend Al-Mansour's artwork reflects the female culture of her hometown of Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. She holds a degree in medicine from Cairo, Egypt, as well as Master of Fine Arts and Master of Art History degrees from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the University of St. Thomas, respectively. Al-Mansour's work is inspired by Islamic art and addresses gender politics in Arab communities. She creates screen prints featuring stylized figures, Arabic calligraphy, and Sadou and henna designs, and builds shrine-like installations using printed fabric. Recently, she has begun creating digital images and animations.

Leslie Barlow (Minneapolis)

lesliebarlowartist.com

Leslie Barlow is a visual artist, educator, and cultural worker from Minneapolis, MN. Barlow believes art and art making is both healing and liberatory, through the power of representation, witnessing and storytelling. Barlow earned her BFA in 2011 from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her MFA in 2016 from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. In addition to her studio practice, Barlow has taught at the University of Minnesota, Metro State University, and Carleton College. Barlow also supports emerging artists at Public Functionary as Director of PF Studios, is a part of the Creatives After Curfew mural collective, and is a 7-year volunteer for the organization MidWest Mixed. Leslie Barlow is represented by Bockley Gallery.

Philipo Dyauli (Minneapolis)

philipodyauli.com

Philipo Dyauli is a self-taught painter, muralist and illustrator from Tanzania, currently based in Minneapolis. As a painter, he uses color and scale to illustrate the importance of people over material objects to create a unique form of storytelling, and transform personal experiences into life-size paintings.

Sydney James (Detroit)

sydneygjames.com

Detroit-bred and based Interdisciplinary Artist and 2017 Kresge Fellow Sydney G. James earned her BFA at the College for Creative Studies in 2001 and began her career as an Art Director in advertising. Sydney headed to Los Angeles in 2004, to expand her career as a visual artist in the film and television industry and earned her master's degree in secondary education. Returning to Detroit in 2011, Sydney has become one of the leading creative voices in southeast Michigan. Primarily known for large murals, Sydney's work explores themes of the racial and gender positioning of the black woman in America as "last" or "least among others" in society. Her portraits and murals seek to reposition this narrative of the black woman's visibility and

importance bringing them to the forefront of the conversation. Sydney is a co-founder of the biannual BLKOUT Walls street mural festival which debuted in Detroit in 2021.

Max Sansing (Chicago)

<https://www.instagram.com/maxsansing/>

Max Sansing is a Chicago-based fine artist and one of the city's most prolific and talented muralists. His distinct aesthetic fuses the color-drenched dynamism of street art with the technical elegance of photorealism. Born and raised on the South Side by two artistic parents, Sansing discovered his passion and creative gift at an early age. During his youth he was involved with several graffiti crews and taught himself oil painting before completing formal training at the American Academy of Art. In addition to his studio practice, Sansing is frequently commissioned to create large-scale murals and experiential installations across the country. He is deeply committed to supporting his Chicago community and is involved with numerous youth programs that expand arts opportunities in underserved areas. His work has been featured in gallery shows and special events in Chicago, New York, and Miami among others.

Wes Winship (Minneapolis)

[@wzzwnshp](https://www.instagram.com/wzzwnshp)

Wes Winship is a muralist, fine artist, and printmaker with storied roots in graffiti and street art. Co-founder of internationally-known design and screen print collective, Burlesque of North America, Wes is a successful entrepreneur who has built a creative legacy in the Twin Cities and beyond over the past 15 years. He's also founder of fine art off-shoot, Burlesque Public Works, which produces large-scale paintings, murals, and site-specific installations, often collaborating with businesses, major sporting events, and music festivals. Of his process, Wes says, "Making stuff is my entire existence. My career consists of having an idea, figuring out how to do it, making that idea a reality and stumbling on the next idea in the process."

Michael Engebretson with Interact Gallery

[@Interactgallery](https://www.instagram.com/Interactgallery)

Michael Engebretson's kaleidoscopic drawings, paintings, and sculptures map a future existence beyond Earth, where inhabitants travel through galaxies by spaceship and live on distant moons. An avid autism advocate, Engebretson would like viewers of his work to understand how, as he says, "the autistic mind operates." He describes the way that his brain works as "just like a cyborg: part human, and part machine," and he hopes that his work will help people to understand the vitality of neurodiversity. "Minds, minds can coexist," he says. "Can can coexist with other people, with everybody. Isn't that awesome?"

Forrest Wozniak

[@forrestwozniak](https://www.instagram.com/forrestwozniak)

Forrest Wozniak was born and raised in South Minneapolis. He has a background in construction and restoration. Forrest is a local sign painter, and has been painting large historic and iconic outdoor signs and advertisements around the Twin Cities for the past 20 years. Forrest paints both clients' designs and his own.

Votan Henriquez (mural delayed from 2022)

[@votanik](#)

Founder of NSRGNTS and known for their powerful city murals, Votan Henriquez (Maya/Nahua) is a multifaceted street artist based out of LA and Albuquerque. Votan grew up amidst the birth of Los Angeles street art which involved tagging, graffiti and wheatpasting to create powerful statements in community spaces. Votan has traveled around the world, participating in mural festivals in South America, Artist in Residence in Dubai, and Hip Hop graffiti tours in the U.S. and Europe. In addition to his work with NSRGNTS, Votan plans to further expand his creative endeavors to include an upcoming podcast and documentary with his wife Leah Lewis.

Reggie LeFore

[@ral86](#)

Reggie LeFore is a visual artist who creates to praise individual and collective stories through human portraiture. LeFore's inspirations are drawn from the concepts and philosophies of Street Art culture and Illustration - using aerosol, acrylic paint and various graphic design techniques to construct pieces in varying styles, scales and surfaces. He uses visual arts to amplify both his surrounding environments and the narratives contained within them. LeFore's visual arts style and identity grew from the wonder and excitement he felt from first seeing murals and illustrations as a child. These works of art influenced him to learn various graphic design and illustrative techniques commonly seen in the comic books, animations and pop culture elements of the 90s and early 2000s.