Call for Participants

On Campus Public Art Project with Artist and Human Rights Activist Marcelo Brodsky
March 11-12, 2016

The Tufts University Art Gallery seeks six Tufts students to collaborate with Argentine artist and human rights activist Marcelo Brodsky on the creation of a public art project, to take the form of a “billboard” on Talbot Avenue, at the Mayer Campus Center, this spring, in connection with his exhibition at the Aidekman Arts Center “Marcelo Brodsky | Jorge Tacla: Upheaval,” on view through May 22.

To initiate the public art project, students will participate in a two-part workshop with internationally acclaimed artist Marcelo Brodsky on Friday, March 11th and Saturday, March 12th. For this project, Brodsky has chosen to base the installation on a globe he received in 2015 as part of the Jean Mayer Award from the Tufts Institute for Global Leadership. He has photographed the object from different perspectives and is preparing a digital montage for student-collaborators to interact with and respond to for the final billboard design.

At the first workshop, held from 10am to 1pm on Friday, March 11 at the Tufts Art Gallery in the “Upheaval” exhibition space, students will learn about Brodsky’s artistic process and practice and how it will be extended into the approach taken at Tufts. He will bring working “proofs” of this montage for each student participant to the first workshop. Each student will be responsible for investigating conflicts, or civil/human rights’ issues affecting immigration and refuge in 2016 in a particular area of the globe of interest to the student. Each participant will take home a printed proof of Brodsky’s image on which to develop her/his drafted texts on im/migration in area of the globe s/he is researching. The following day, on Saturday, March 12, from 10am to 1pm, students will return with their marked-up proofs, and based on discussions with the artist, final texts will be selected, edited for concision by the group, and then hand-written on the original by Brodsky. Using color and composition to reach equilibrium within the image, the group will collaborate on the final outcome. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both workshop days.

The “billboard” will be installed in late April on campus in front of the Mayer Campus Center on Talbot Avenue, and will “launch” with a public reception on Friday, April 29 from 3 to 4:30pm.

The goal of this project is to promote and encourage thinking about world affairs within an art perspective, to discuss Tufts students’ interest in world affairs, and to select and edit comments to generate wider discussion about the complexity of issues at stake in different geographical, social, and political environments simultaneously.

Interested in participating? Send a few sentences about yourself, your preferred research area, and why you’d like to participate NO LATER THAN MARCH 3, via email to: Amy Schlegel, director, Tufts University Art Gallery; amy.schlegel@tufts.edu.

If you are selected as one of the six participants, you will be invited to attend a dinner in honor of “Upheaval” artists Marcelo Brodsky and Jorge Tacla on Thursday, March 10th at 6:30pm, after the symposium “Civil Disobedience Across the Americas: From Selma to Buenos Aires and Beyond,” 5 to 6:30pm, Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center; moderated by Tufts Professor of History Peter Winn.