SEARCH

ABOUT PD PRESENTS VISUAL ART MUSIC EVENTS NEWS POINTS OF INTEREST TEAM SPONSORS & PARTNERS

LIFESTYLE / VISUAL ART

READ NOW: ∞ MILE ONLINE ART JOURNAL RELEASES ISSUE #5 EXPLORING ARTISTS & THE CITY

by PLAYGROUND DETROIT on Apr 17, 2014 • 8:11 am

No Comments



Subscribe to our mailing list

email address

Subscribe

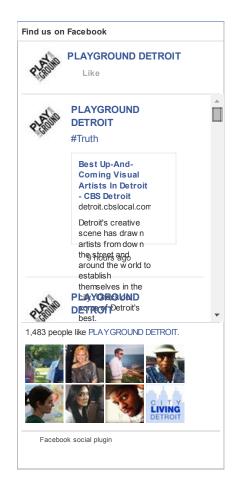


 $-\infty$ mile (infinite mile) is a recently launched monthly online Detroit-based art journal. Through reviews, interviews, articles, writings and photo essays, ∞ mile fosters critical discourse in support of art and culture in Detroit. Inflecting on Detroit and its nuanced, experimental and diverse art scene, ∞ mile seeks to proliferate and formalize discussions and critique. The release of issue #5 contains contributions by stephen garrett dewyer, Jennifer Junkermeier, Osman Khan with special guests Greg Baise [of MOCAD] and Joe Scanlan, Marie Buck, Katie Grace McGowan, Sarah Nesbitt, Cedric Tai, and Rachel Yezbick.

According to co-founder Jennifer Junkermeier, ∞ mile is \dots

Everyone who has signed on to be involved with ∞ mile has varying ideas of exactly what it is and what it should be. I think this is a good thing. ∞ mile is a forum. Its online occupation is concerned with providing a structure for people to publicly and formally exchange views and ideas on art and culture in Detroit and abroad.

Currently, few publications contain text or images of Detroit's scene outside institutionally initiated or social-media dictated formats of information exchange. ∞ mile is an accessible, public record of happenings, climate, and context for select art in Detroit. With the amount of work created and shown in Detroit as well as a growing interest from both inside and outside the city in its happenings, a sizable gap of sources attempts to define and contextualize what the scene is and what it looks like. ∞ mile will provide an



RSS Feed

Twitter followers

alternative record of the art scene that, albeit curated, takes its cues from its contributors and audience as seen in monthly text, photo essays, letters and "citings".

SEARCH

One article that got our attention was The Use of Artists by Rachel Yezbick, which examines the use of Detroit artists "for re-branding and revitalization efforts within the city." Yezbick points out The Knight Foundation along with the The Kresge Fellowship for "mobilizing artists as tools of gentrification, using artists to fill in the gaps of a failing social sector or create events that make the city more enticing to developers." When do these arts funding programs cross the line between supporting the arts and pushing agendas onto the artists themselves, who may feel pressure to help 'save the city? She explains,

For artists to see themselves and their artwork as serving a social purpose is to take on a daunting responsibility, to take on social ills that they are ill equipped to successfully tackle."

Regarding artist reception to the rest of the world, she argues that "artistic practice in Detroit is so closely aligned with a narrative of the city, artists simultaneously forfeit artistic merit in national and international art scenes, often valued not for the work they create but for the insight and voyeurism they provide into a highly mythologized and misunderstood city." This is particularly interesting, as artwork coming from Detroit is in fact looked at as an insight to those who live there more than the merit of the art itself, increasingly more of public interest than the previous years of 'ruin porn.'

Many points in her argument are valid. These concepts are important to consider and discuss, but there are of course other sides to the conversation. The growing Detroit artist community and corresponding media attention is not the sole result of the entities or organizations incentives or underlying agendas. Art does not always need to support communal endeavors, but it can be a powerful tool for positive changes. Street art in the form of large-scale murals, bus benches, and re-invigorated parks around Detroit have invigorated parts of the decayed urban environment and help transform blight-stricken communities. Detroit is not a Utopian dream - but- the city's strange, uniqueness does provide artists with inspiration and ample space to create artwork. The city itself often influences or becomes the subject of art, in a similar way that Paris was the subject of many Surrealism and Impressionism works. Ultimately, it remains up to the individual artist to "focus on making the best work possible rather than making work that is in service of a promoted communal ideal."

FOLLOW ∞ MILE!

FACEBOOK

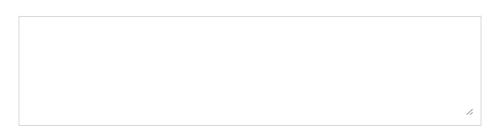
TWITTER

Like { 2

Tags: detroit art, Detroit artists, infinite mile, Kresge Fellows, Rachel Yezbick, The Knight Foundation, The Use of Artists, ∞ mile

Previous post
PARTY ON: BORN & RAISED DETROIT
FOUNDATION HOLDS NYC BENEFIT TO SHOW
LOVE FOR THE CITY

What do you think?



Name required Email required Website

RECENT COMMENTS

LISTEN NOW: WDET INTERVIEWS HAUTE TO DEATH, TAKEAWAYS FROM A DETROIT ART SHOW IN MANHATTAN | PLAYGROUND DETROIT ON PD PRESENTS: EMERGENCY NOTHING GROUP EXHIBITION FEATURING HAUTE TO DEATH & DETROIT ARTISTS

LISTEN UP: COUNT MACK KICKS OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH PLEASE BELIEVE ALBUM RELEASE | PLAYGROUND DETROIT on ARTIST PROFILE: SHEEFY MCFLY IS IN 'THE AIR UP THERE' DONATE NOW: PONYRIDE NEEDS FUNDS TO COMPLETE RESTORATIONS FOR NEW BUSINESSES | PLAYGROUND DETROIT on PONYRIDE LOOKS AT THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE FORECLOSURE

ABR on LISTEN UP: OG TRIBE MEMBER MIKE MELINOE BREAKS ONTO THE SCENE AS UP-AND-COMER

Cheap Lebron Shoes NGK843 by Blog on BURN: ONE YEAR ON THE FRONTLINES, DETROIT DOCUMENTARY WORLD PREMIERES AT TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

ONLINE RESOURCES

323East Gallery

555 Gallery

Art Detroit Now

Art X Detroit

Blight Busters

College for Creative Studies

Creative Rights

Detroit Creative Corridor Center

Detroit Design Festival

Detroit Free Press

Detroit Institute of Arts Museum

Detroit Metro Times

Detroit Music Magazine

DetroitExposure

Hell Yeah Detroit!

I Am Young Detroit

Michigan F.A.S.H. Fest

MLIVE.COM

Motor City Ragers

Motor City Rocks

Ponyride

Positive Detroit

Practice Space

Real Detroit

Secret Project Robot

SELECT Art Fair

Spread Art

Street Culture Mash

The Detroit News

The Detroiter

The L Magazine

Whitdel Arts

/18/2014	READ NOW: ∞ MILE ONLINE ART JOURNAL RELEASES ISSUE #5 EXPLORING ARTISTS & THE CITY PLAYGROUND DETROIT
Submit	
Gubilit	

© 2011 PLAYGROUND DETROIT. All Rights Reserved. Powered by WordPress.

Designed by BRUNO