

LOOP A



1 NILS WESTERGARD
"MATT"
BSP PARKING LOT
72-98 CROWN STREET
2014: CORRESPONDENCE

Richmond, Virginia-based artist Nils Westergard paints murals in the U.S. and Europe and his work celebrates the everyday person. His O+ mural pays tribute to the meaning of true friendship and depicts his friend, Matt, as a massive playing card. This "king of friends" is seen on one side in the best of times and on the other during more challenging life experiences – but friends through it all.

nilswestergard.com

GAIA
"ARTEMIS EMERGING FROM THE QUARRY"
BSP TOWER
72-98 CROWN STREET
2013: SCALE

Internationally recognized mural artist Gaia, who is based in Baltimore, depicted the ancient Greek goddess Artemis (inspired by a photo he took at the Vatican) ascending from a limestone quarry with a skyline of New York City on the horizon and a Corinthian crown at the top. The enormous mural references Kingston's proximity to the natural resources that helped build New York; the process of resource exploitation as a defiling of Mother Earth; and marble and limestone used for architectural embellishments in early Neoclassical revival / Georgian style architecture. The statue represents Mother Earth and is a Hellenistic and Roman reference to the celebration of democracy in early United States history.

gaiastreetart.com



3 KIMBERLY KAE
"BILANCIA"
BIRCH BODY SPA (ALLEY)
73 CROWN STREET
2013: SCALE

Esopus-based artist Kimberly Kae envisioned two towering chair-o-plane rides that briefly intersect each other like an old set of scales. The seats of one ride are filled with young Muslim women in headscarves; one rider extends her arm and holds out a red ring, implying both a ring toss and the O of O+. The viewer's vantage point is from the seats of the other ride; the women's heads are not covered and the central flamenco-esque figure seems to challenge with her gaze as if to say, "You're next, try." The interaction is brief, but an opportunity to learn something of each other, to exchange and enrich our lives much in the same way the O+ Festival enriches lives through the exchange of art and healthcare.

kimberlykae.com



4 MATTHEW PLEVA
"THE HOBGOBLIN OF OLD DUTCH"
PEACE PARK
72-98 CROWN STREET
2014: CORRESPONDENCE

Kingston native Matthew Pleva usually makes art the size of a postage stamp using a pen and ink crosshatching technique for his drawings and dioramas. For the huge wall facing Peace Park, Pleva built a grid on wheels to properly cross-hatch the wall "canvas." The mural depicts the legend of a mischievous spirit who became trapped and imprisoned in the Old Dutch Church steeple. Its little tricks include adding a numeral to the clock's face so that it reads thirteen instead of twelve. "I wanted to do a Kingston-themed piece," Pleva says. "And there's nothing more architecturally iconic than the Old Dutch Church... That's part of my enjoyment of this piece: adding to the folklore of Kingston."

matthewpleva.com

JIA SUNG WITH ASSISTANCE FROM SARULA BAO
"BETWEEN REALMS WE GROW ROOTS"
63 NORTH FRONT STREET
2017: HOME

Brooklyn-based artist Jia Sung, who assisted Jess X. Snow on the "O Wind Take Me to My Country" mural in 2016, returned to Kingston to paint Snow as muse. The figure of the queer Asian-Canadian artist, poet and filmmaker is situated between the two realms of sun and moon to illustrate the complex relationship of a migrant to their homeland and wherever they now find themselves struggling to assimilate. Sung depicted Snow opening herself to grow roots in a "gesture of devotion and defiance, challenge and vulnerability."

jia-sung.com



MARTINA NEHRLING
"EMILY'S BEES, THE AUTUMN LIGHT, THE LOCAL PUBLIC RADIO"
KOVO LUNETTE
43 NORTH FRONT STREET
2016: MOTHERS OF INVENTION

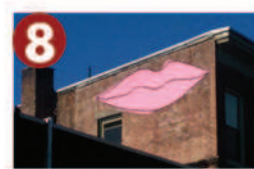
Chicago artist Martina Nehrling used her own visual vocabulary of multiple distinct brushstrokes in highly saturated colors to create a mural that developed spontaneously and organically in response to the lunette, the rhythm of nearby uptown Kingston activities, and unique sensory atmosphere. The mural was executed on panel because of the logistics of the covered sidewalk. Nehrling worked offsite for several consecutive days in a Rondout location observing the passage of autumn light throughout the day. The composition and structure of the mark making was influenced by the honeycombs of beehives hanging nearby. Palette decisions began with International Optimism Yellow, a paint color that is its own art project by local conceptual artist Uncle Riley. Adding to the mix was the constant influence of the local classical station as well as the "convivial atmosphere" in the Kingston arts community.

martinanehrling.com

ERNEST SHAW
"KNOW THYSELF"
BACK OF 35 NORTH FRONT STREET
SCHWENK DRIVE PARKING LOT
2015: THE OTHER

Baltimore-based artist Ernest Shaw uses his deep understanding of color and the figure to define the duality of the African-American experience and to continue a rich history of African and African-American figurative art. His use of color to create rhythms in his work is informed by West African drumming. "I attempt to create work that combats negative, degrading, denigrating and stereotypical images that falsely depict African people throughout the diaspora," he says. "My mission and purpose is to illustrate the beauty of being an African in America while maintaining truthfulness and authenticity in the process. I wish to raise the level of consciousness of peoples of color, while providing others with a more full scope of the Black experience."

ernestshaw.com



8 BUDDY VALENTINE
"SWAK"
313 FAIR STREET UPPER STOCKADE ROOF WALL
(ALSO SEE NO. 28)
2014: CORRESPONDENCE

Writer, artist and aerobics teacher Buddy Valentine created this pair of O+ murals that kiss across town. In 2018 Buddy and her partner Chris Bick are adding more SWAK as the winning bike rack design for the Cornell Street corridor. Feel the love!

instagram.com/heybuddyvalentine

GEDDES JONES PAULSEN AND RAUDIEL SANUDO
"UNTITLED"
309 FAIR STREET
2011: EXCHANGE

Geddes Jones Paulsen, a Hudson Valley - and Nantucket-based illustrator and tattoo artist, and Raudiel Sañudo, an illustrator and painter who lives in Tijuana, Mexico, worked together to conjure a fantastical creature. The eagle that is depicted was inspired by the eagle on the Mexican flag. Jones Paulsen added his signature clothing style. Their collaborative work has the distinction of being the first permanent O+ mural in Kingston.

raudieltumblr.com | instagram.com/geddesjones



GAIA
"PRONKSTILLEVEN"
THE STUYVESANT BUILDING
289 FAIR STREET
2015: THE OTHER

O+ alumna Gaia returned to Kingston in 2015 to create "Pronkstilleven," which references the Dutch word for ornate or ostentatious still-life. Building on a series of works that began with Savage Habbit Murals Project in Jersey City, NJ, the still-life becomes a foreground for historical figures. For "Pronkstilleven" Gaia painted the portraits of American neoclassicist painter John Vanderlyn and abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner

Truth. Gaia juxtaposed the "otherness" of both figures; one, a well-travelled and educated white painter who was born and died (penniless) in Kingston, and the other, an African-American slave who freed herself and travelled the country fighting for the rights of others.

gaiastreetart.com

JANE BLOODGOOD-ABRAMS
"VIGNETTES OF HOME"
WIN MORRISON REALTY
63 JOHN STREET
2017: HOME

Lifelong Hudson Valley resident and Kingston-based painter Jane Bloodgood-Abrams is inspired by the iconic landscape of the region and the artistic heritage of the Hudson River School. The three luminous porthole/portals that make up her O+ mural allow the viewer to reflect on the imagery of the landscape beyond the city. "It helps show the interconnection of artists and others, past and present, who choose to make this region their home based on in no small part, the natural beauty."

janebloodgoodabrams.com



LOOP B



12 LMNOPI
"PRETTY NOSE & DAKOTA UNITY RIDERS"
KEEGAN ALES
20 ST. JAMES STREET
2013: SCALE

The mission of Brooklyn-based artist and environmental activist Lopí LaRoe aka Lmnopi is to give a voice to the voiceless through art. Pretty Nose was an Arapaho woman war chief who is believed to have participated in the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. "History tends to place the emphasis on the experiences and deeds of the Native American men while the women remain a mystery," Lmnopi writes. "This mural is a dedication to the lives of those women whose stories remain unknown, only for our imaginations to invent." The artist invites the viewer to think about the following questions: "Did they (women ancestors) fight alongside the men for their freedom? What roles did they play in decision making as to their future?"

lmnopi.blogspot.com

THORNEATER COMICS
"ATLANTIC STURGEON"
KEEGAN ALES
20 ST. JAMES STREET
2015: THE OTHER

The work of Illustrator Will Lytle aka Thorneater Comics is often inspired by both the people and plants and animals that call the Catskills home. For his wall at Keegan Ales, Lytle decided to portray the Atlantic Sturgeon, a native Hudson River fish that can grow to 15 feet and weigh more than 800 pounds, but is greatly threatened by overfishing and pollution. The artist and Keegan Ales owner Tommy Keegan agree the mural and location are the perfect match: "a local water animal on a local watering hole!" Lytle says.

thorneater.tumblr.com



14 ENZ
"SUN/MOON"
KEEGAN ALES MERCANTILE
36 ST. JAMES STREET
2017: HOME

Local graffiti artist ENZ has been painting in his home streets for years. In his genre-defying piece "Sun/Moon," he blends local Hudson River Valley landscape elements of white pine trees, dramatic sunset and bald eagles with psychedelic flair. The artist explores the idea of home as planet earth balanced between our life-giving sun and tide-regulating moon, stylized into mandala. His graffiti moniker "ENZ" emblazoned in the foreground activates and proclaims "This is my home." A campfire invites one closer and echoes the fiery sunset.

JACK DISHEL AND VOR 138
"UNTITLED"
KEEGAN ALES MERCANTILE
36 ST. JAMES STREET
2014: CORRESPONDENCE

Jack Dishel is a NYC-based musician, producer, actor, director, comedian and graffiti artist. He is best known as the singer/songwriter behind Only Son, lead guitarist for Moldy Peaches and creator/star of the viral web comedy series "DRYVRS."

jackdishel.com | instagram.com/vor138



16 JOHN BREINER
"FROM THE GROUND UP"
KEEGAN ALES MERCANTILE
36 ST. JAMES STREET
2016: MOTHERS OF INVENTION

Poughkeepsie-based artist John Breiner explored the balance of humans and nature through the motif of bricks. The brick symbolizes stability and the artist depicted what that meant to him after a period of moving from place to place. His mural pays tribute to the brick manufacturing history of Kingston's Hutton Brickyard that was part of the Hudson River brick industry. Bricks were manufactured locally but used far and wide to build cities. Breiner's mural presents the notion that the region is a hive of cultural activity, and ever changing like a beehive.

johnbreiner.com

EUGENE STETZ JR.
"FISHBONE"
PEOPLE'S PLACE
17 ST. JAMES STREET
2016: MOTHERS OF INVENTION

Eugene Stetz Jr. in his mural explored how reading books can spark a child's imagination. The High Falls-based artist collaborated with the People's Place staff to include visuals that showcase the goods and services offered at the thrift store and food pantry, including fresh fruit, clothing, toys, games and birthday party supplies.

stetzism.com



18 JUSTIN SUAREZ
"FLIGHT SEQUENCE"
THE ANCHOR
744-746 BROADWAY
2017: HOME

Rochester, New York-based muralist Justin Suarez draws inspiration from his work as a handler of birds of prey at a local animal sanctuary. For his O+ mural, Suarez depicted the flight sequence of the barn owl, illustrating the brief pauses of its body motions as it moves between tree branches during its nocturnal hunt. Want to spot barn owls in Ulster County? Head to the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Wallkill.

mrprvt.com



19 LAYGA NUNA YAWAR,
MATA RUDA, NANOOK
"AÑOS DE SOLEDAD"
721 BROADWAY
2015: THE OTHER

The collaborative mural portrays Nina Gualinga, an environmental and indigenous rights activist and "hija del primer levantamiento (daughter of the first uprising)." It is inspired by a photographic portrait of Gualinga by Marc Silver taken during his documentation of the fight of the Kichwa tribe in Ecuadorian Amazon to save their ancestral land from oil interests. The mural also depicts images of migration, local (Kingston, NY) landscapes, and an Incan Inti gold piece over coal and marble, which were natural resources mined from the area to build cities and capitals. The viewer sees references to traditional medicine, modern technology, wellness and health divided by years of solitude.

llyny.com | cargocollective.com/mataruda | nanookstreetart.com



JETSONORAMA WITH JESS X. SNOW
"AIN'T I A WOMAN?"
MILNE FABRICATION FACTORY
72 FRANKLIN STREET
2015: THE OTHER

Abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth, who was born into slavery in Ulster County, NY, and later escaped to freedom, electrified audiences at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Ohio with her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. Doctor-turned-mural artist Chip Thomas aka Jetsonorama of The Painted Desert Project and collaborator Jess X. Snow wanted to honor Truth's contribution to the women's rights movement and her role as a humanitarian by asking African-American female poets to share poems pertaining to African-American womanhood. Poets Mahogany Browne and T'ai Freedom Ford are depicted with their poems embedded in each portrait.

jetsonorama.net | jessxsnow.com

JALANI CROOKS WITH DONNY MAPES
"IN MEMORY OF ADAM (JEFF) MCQUEEN,
KAIREEM MEEKS JR., DANTE CRUMP, JONTE
CLARK & JEFFREY D-AGUILAR"
MILNE FABRICATION FACTORY
72 FRANKLIN STREET
2015
instagram.com/iamyounglion2



JESS X. SNOW WITH JIA SUNG
ARTBAR GALLERY
2016: MOTHERS OF INVENTION
674 BROADWAY
NJC-based artist and poet Jess X. Snow created a three-story mural featuring a portrait of Sudanese-migrant poet Sofia Elhillo. It is painted in solidarity and celebration with millions of migrant mothers and sisters and animals of the sea and sky, crossing borders, oceans and deserts in search of home. "Why are humans polluted when our diaspora and bird ancestors are not?" Snow asks. "Does the ocean and Earth not embrace us the way it does the animals and plants? If so, every border drawn is an unnatural act of violence against the earth and ourselves." The mural is partially inspired by Elhillo's poem, which notes the Arabic words "ف" (howa) and "س" (howa) are homophones: one means wind, the other means love.



LADY PINK
DISCOVER LATINOS EXPRESS LATINOS
2016: MOTHERS OF INVENTION
686 BROADWAY
NATIVE AMERICANS
Legendary graffiti artist Lady Pink, who now calls the O+ mural reflect the artist's signature palette. Mueros imagery has found its way into some of Pink's best works and the bold colors used painted images of the culture and beauty that were forever altered by those encounters as well as showing the outcome: Lady Death personified during the Day of the Dead. Dia de los Genocidios in history following the impact of European explorers to Native peoples. She and Latino and Latino artist wanted to tell the true story of one of the largest Gardner home, was inspired by her work's proximity to two Latino-owned businesses. Express



VINCE BALLENTINE
YMOA OF KINGSTON AND ULSTER COUNTY
507 BROADWAY
2017: HOME
For Brooklyn-based street artist and motion graphics editor Vince Ballentine, Home is an "outward honoring the indigenous, particularly the Choctaw Nation (part of the artist's heritage). At the YMOA, deals with generational wisdom and love, displacement, the environment, and the man's fixation of how we exist and where we come from." His mural, the second O+ mural in Kingston, is a colorful and abstract composition.



JESSIE AND KATEY
B ARNONE'S MUSIC
2015: THE OTHER
528 BROADWAY
Jessie Umehalder and Katey Tuin are a Baltimore-based artist team that strives to bring playfulness to public spaces and enhance people's lives through public art. They believe that the aesthetics of one's environment can influence the emotion and state of mind. With a passion for people and design, Jessie & Katey bring their movement and abstract painting and sculpture. Their work explores themes of textiles. Each piece and palette is specifically designed for its location.



NANI BAH "NANI" CHACON
THE BRUSH FACTORY
107 GREENKILL AVENUE
2017: HOME
"WE'VE ALWAYS FOUND OUR WAY HOME."
Dine (Nava) and Chicago artist Nani Chacon's cultural heritage and experience often inform her work as a muralist and activist. The Albuquerque, New Mexico-based partner has made an homage to the indigenous people that have passed through or live in the Catskills. The woman in the mural uses the proportion of her hand to measure the stars and no gaps. The unique patterns correspond to different tribes and cultures. Plants represent local herbs and fauna, while the infant signifies the continuation of cultural practices, "which in essence bind us to home."



MATTHEW PLEVA
RIVERPORT WOODEN BOAT SCHOOL
HUDSON RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM
7086 EAST STRAND STREET
2017: HOME
This mural shines a light (literally) on the mission of the Hudson River Maritime Museum and focuses on the role the Rondout played and continues to play in Kingston's history and culture. The Kingston-based artist in his second mural for O+ has depicted the Rondout Lighthouse (maritime history of the Hudson River), Loop Clearwater (environmental conservation), the Croken Herd Hårgre (traditional boatbuilding techniques) and fishermen (recreational uses of the river).



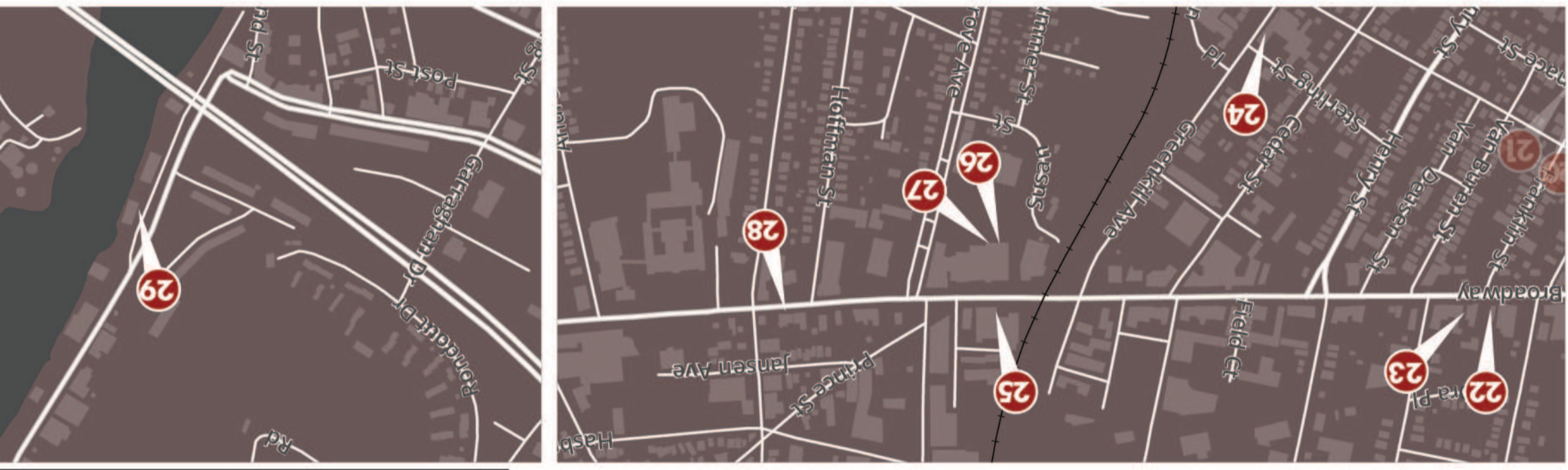
BUDDY VALENTINE
"SWAK"
456 BROADWAY AT JOE BEEZ
(ALSO SEE NO. 8)
2014: CORRESPONDENCE
Writer, artist and aerobic teacher Buddy Valentine created this pair of O+ murals that kiss across town. In 2018 Buddy and her partner Chris Bick are adding more SWAK as the winning bike rack design for the Cornell Street corridor. Feel the love!



JULIA SANTOS SOLOMON
"MYMCA"
YMOA KINGSTON AND ULSTER COUNTY
507 BROADWAY
2014: CORRESPONDENCE
Woods-based artist Julia Santos Solomon created a mural for the YMOA parking lot wall intended to be welcoming, healing and inclusive of the rich diversity, history and heritage of the residents of Kingston's midtown neighborhood. The Dominican Republic-born artist collaborated with volunteers from the YMOA art club to develop and execute the composition.



LOOP C



MURAL MAP



THANK YOU



MURAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTED BY RACHEL BRENNECKE, KEVIN GODBEY, ANDY MILFORD, DENISE ORZO, JUSTIN SCHMIDT AND DANIEL WEINTRAUB.

Every October during the O+ Kingston festival, our curators invite local and nationally/internationally known artists to Kingston to make murals that respond to annual festival themes. These large-scale works of public art reflect the history and culture of the city and its diverse population.

Participating mural artists receive health and wellness care, including primary care, integrative medicine and massage therapy in our Artists' Clinic, as well as in-office dentistry and optometry. This exchange of the art of medicine for the medicine of art is one of the ways the nonprofit O+ (pronounced O Positive) empowers communities to take control of their collective wellbeing.

This map is intended to help the public create self-guided tours of the O+ murals and to be a jumping off point for conversations about each artist's inspiration and the message the artist endeavored to convey.

Guided tours for K-12 school groups and accompanying learning materials for teachers are available. Please contact info@opositivefestival.org for more information.

Share your best O+ mural photographs and stories by tagging #opositive murals on Instagram. Has one of the murals inspired you? Tell us how over social media. We will select our favorites for free O+ swag!

BY EXCHANGING THE ART OF MEDICINE FOR THE MEDICINE OF ART O+ EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR COLLECTIVE WELLBEING.

OPOSITIVEFESTIVAL.ORG / OPOSITIVEFEST @OPPOSITIVEFEST