

# artspace

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## Artspace Presents 23rd Annual City-Wide Open Studios

*The 2020 edition, Who Governs?, will take place from Oct 1 – 30, 2020*



(New Haven -- TK DATE) Artspace, New Haven's leading home for contemporary artists, is pleased to announce the 23rd annual [City-Wide Open Studios](#), which will run from Oct 1 – 30, 2020. This year, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the festival will be held primarily online, with special digital viewing rooms that allow visitors to engage with more than 200 artists from across Connecticut and learn more about their work and their practices. A handful of area artists will also open up their physical studios for a limited number of by-appointment, socially-distant visits.

This year's festival theme, *Who Governs?*, celebrates the 60th anniversary of political scientist Robert Dahl's groundbreaking book of the same name. A seminal case study of municipal decision-making, which took the government of New Haven as its subject, Dahl's book serves as a jumping off point for artists to imagine public projects that reference innovative city management and successful governance.

"While the pandemic brought with it obvious challenges for this year's Open Studios, we're thrilled we were able to bring together hundreds of artists to showcase their work, both online and through limited socially distanced studio visits," said **Artspace New Haven Executive Director Lisa Dent**. "It's been an especially challenging time for many artists, who've been unable to show, or sell, their work, and we're proud to be able to provide this platform for them."

Artspace's City-Wide Open Studios festival began in 1997 as a way to offer local and regional artists new opportunities to connect with the wider New Haven community. Last year's festival took place over three weekends, from Oct 12 – Nov 3, 2019, drawing more than a thousand visitors to artists' studios and a slew of special projects and programming at Erector Square in Fair Haven and the Yale West Campus.

City-Wide Open Studios is free and open to the public and will run through the entire month of October. More information, including an FAQ and Artist Toolkit, is available at [cwos.org](http://cwos.org).

### **About Artspace New Haven**

Founded by artists in 1987 as part of the alternative space movement, Artspace has served as a home for artists from all walks of life to take risks, share their stories and build bridges between Greater New Haven's diverse communities. Artspace's mission is to connect artists, audiences, and resources; to catalyze artistic activity; train and empower future art leaders; build audiences; and ground art as an agent of change.

Artspace is based in New Haven, Connecticut, and operates out of a 5,000 square foot storefront in a former Civil War-era furniture factory. We've mounted group shows and solo projects that spark local/global dialogues, foster collaborations between artists and non-artists, support experimentation, defend radical expression, uplift teen voices, champion under-resourced voices, and encourage interdisciplinary exchange around some of the most urgent issues of our time. Over the past decade, these projects have addressed racial bias in the Criminal Justice system (Arresting Patterns, 2015), the jettisoning of worker rights (A new job to un-work at, 2017), Land Justice (Paying Homage: Soil + Site), and our individual and collective resiliency (with the art and healthcare commissions, WellBeing).

Artspace is supported by state art funding from the CT Office of the Arts/Department of Economic and Community Development, a state agency funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Recent funders have included CT Humanities, Foundation for Contemporary Art, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, and the Wingate Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, the Andy Warhol Foundation, the Board of Directors and Friends of Artspace, and generous artists who contribute to an annual benefit art auction.

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