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U.S. Department of State Launches smARTpower, Will Use Visual Arts to Engage Underserved Youth Overseas

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WASHINGTON, D.C. /eNewsChannels/ — U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Bronx Museum of the Arts launched smARTpower(SM), a new initiative that sends 15 American artists and collaborative artist teams to 15 countries worldwide to engage in people-to-people diplomacy through the visual arts.



smARTpower builds on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's vision of "smart power diplomacy," which embraces the use of a full range of diplomatic tools – in this case the visual arts – to bring people together and foster greater understanding.

For up to 45 days during the next year, the following American artists will travel to all corners of the globe, where they will partner with local arts organizations to engage with underserved youth and create community-based projects. The first smARTpower artist, Kabir Carter of Brooklyn, New York, will depart October 24 for Istanbul, Turkey. Other artists will follow throughout 2012 with travel to China,

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Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Venezuela.

The artists participating in smARTpower, the countries to which they will travel, and their in-country partner arts organizations are:

- * Duke Riley of Brooklyn, New York – Shanghai, China
Partner Organization: Arthub Asia
- * Chris “Daze” Ellis of New York, New York – Quito, Ecuador
Partner Organization: Cero Inspiración
- * Arturo Lindsay of Atlanta, Georgia – Cairo, Egypt
Partner Organization: Medrar/Nagla Samir
- * Rochelle Feinstein of New York, New York – Accra, Ghana
Partner Organization: Foundation for Contemporary Art
- * Caroline Woolard of Brooklyn, New York – New Delhi, India
Partner Organization: KHOJ
- * Miguel Luciano of Brooklyn, New York – Nairobi and Dadaab Province, Kenya
Partner Organization: Kuona Trust
- * Samuel Gould of Minneapolis, Minnesota – Pristina, Kosovo
Partner Organization: Stacion Center for Contemporary Art
- * Ghana Think Tank (comprised of Christopher Robbins, John Ewing, and Maria del Carmen Montoya) of Little Neck, New York; Roxbury, Massachusetts; and Corvallis, Oregon – Beirut, Lebanon
Partner Organization: Arab Image Foundation
- * Pepón Osorio of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Kathmandu, Nepal
Partner Organization: Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre
- * Brett Cook of Berkeley, California – Lagos, Nigeria
Partner Organization: Wy Art Foundation
- * Art Jones of Bronx, New York – Karachi, Pakistan
Partner Organization: Vasl
- * Mary Mattingly of New York, New York – Manila, Philippines
Partner Organization: Green Papaya Art Projects
- * Xaviera Simmons of Brooklyn, New York – Colombo, Sri Lanka
Partner Organization: Theertha International Artists Collective.
- * Kabir Carter of Brooklyn, New York – Istanbul, Turkey
Partner Organization: PiSt//Interdisciplinary Project Space
- * Seth Augustine and Rachel Shachar of Los Angeles, California – Caracas, Venezuela
Partner Organization: Centro Cultural Chacao

More than 900 individuals from nearly all 50 states and U.S. territories applied to the program. Those chosen include both emerging and established artists who work in a variety of media, from site-specific happenings to portable art installations. Selection criteria included the strength of the artists’ work, and their experienced commitment to community-based art making.

smARTpower is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State in partnership with the Bronx Museum of the Arts.



About [Tabitha Berg](#)

ABOUT THE EDITOR: Tabitha Angel Berg is an aspiring author and musician and joined eNewsChannels in Nov. 2006 as an editor and mistress of the content management system. She likes ferrets better than cats and tea better than coffee, and is still waiting on the perfect ebook reading device.

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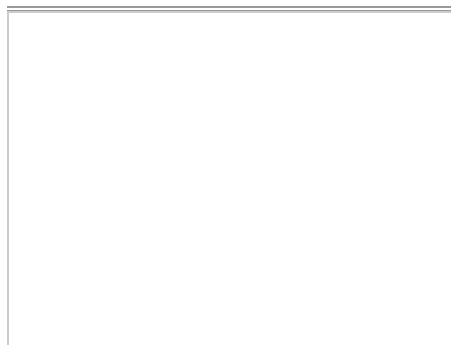


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