



20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 14, 2016

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**RESIDENCY WEBSITE:** [www.go.wisc.edu/franceschini](http://www.go.wisc.edu/franceschini)

**ARTIST'S WEBSITES:** [www.futurefarmers.com/about](http://www.futurefarmers.com/about) | [www.flatbreadsociety.net](http://www.flatbreadsociety.net)

**PHOTOS & DETAILED BIOS:**

Box: <https://uwmadison.box.com/s/8ks0x13ay2xuhwu3wxetwt28twteut0e>

Google: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6fScjurxGCLY2pkZlhvWEdLUm8>

Additional information available on request.

**ARTS INSTITUTE WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA:**

[www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu](http://www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu) | [www.arts.wisc.edu](http://www.arts.wisc.edu)

@uwmadisonarts ([facebook](#), [instagram](#), [pinterest](#) & [twitter](#))

### UW-Madison to host Social Practice, Multimedia and Environmental Artist – Amy Franceschini of Futurefarmers – as the Spring 2016 Arts Institute Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence

MADISON, Wis – The University of Wisconsin-Madison [Arts Institute](#) (presenter), the [Art Department](#) (host), and Departments of [Design Studies](#), [Horticulture](#) and [Community and Environmental Sociology](#) (co-sponsors) welcome Amy Franceschini as the Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence for the spring 2016 semester. The UW-Madison Arts Institute's Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program brings innovative artists to campus to teach semester-long, interdepartmental courses and to publicly present their work for campus and community audiences.

Amy Franceschini is a social artist, designer and educator who creates formats for exchange and production that questions and challenges the social, cultural and environmental systems through temporary and permanent public art. In 1995, Franceschini founded [Futurefarmers](#), an international collective of artists, activists, researchers, farmers, scientists and architects who work together to propose alternatives to current social, political and environmental systems.

Franceschini received her BFA from San Francisco State University in photography and her MFA from Stanford University. She has taught in the visual arts graduate programs at



Amy Franceschini  
Photo courtesy of the artist

Arts Institute

University of Wisconsin-Madison B136 Lathrop Hall 1050 University Avenue Madison, Wisconsin 53706  
608-890-2718 [www.arts.wisc.edu](http://www.arts.wisc.edu)

California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Stanford University and has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships.

During her residency at UW-Madison, Franceschini will teach the course "Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time," invite guest artists to give presentations and work with students, speak at the Art Department's "Visiting Artists Colloquium" and have her students present their research and projects at the final event on April 22. The students in her course will participate in Futurefarmers' international public art projects, "Flatbread Society" and "Seed Journey" (an outgrowth project of Flatbread Society), by researching and undertaking projects using local knowledge and resources.

Futurefarmers' "Flatbread Society" is a permanent public art project created on a waterfront development in Oslo, Norway. Formed in 2012, "Flatbread Society" has resulted in the formation of an urban gardening community along with a permanent grainfield and bakehouse.

"Seed Journey" is a seafaring voyage that will transport varieties of ancient grains, recently discovered in Oslo, back to the Fertile Crescent. During their journey, they will stop in various cities in Europe and the Middle East to exchange ideas and grains with other members of the food commons movement – including artists and scientists.



"Flatbread Society"  
 Photo by Max McClure

**Amy Franceschini & Futurefarmers**

**Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Public Events**

(all locations are in Madison and are free unless noted otherwise)

**Wednesday, February 3 | 4:30 – 5:45pm**

Artist Talk with Amy Franceschini  
 Art Department's Visiting Artists Colloquium  
 UW-Madison campus  
 Room L160 Elvehjem Building | 800 University Ave.

**Wednesday, February 10 | 4:30 – 5:45pm**

Artist Talk with Michael Swaine  
 Art Department's Visiting Artists Colloquium  
 UW-Madison campus  
 Room L160 Elvehjem Building | 800 University Ave.

**Thursday, March 3 | 11:30am – 1pm**

UW-MANIAC Lunch | Details to follow

**Friday, April 22 | 6:30 – 9pm**

Flatbread Society Seed Journey  
 Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time students' final presentation  
 Gates of Heaven | 302 E. Gorham St.  
 Limited Seating | Request online: [www.go.wisc.edu/seeds](http://www.go.wisc.edu/seeds)

## **Spring 2016 Course “Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time”**

Amy Franceschini will teach a semester-long interdisciplinary course “Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time.” Students will collaborate on Futurefarmers’ “Seed Journey” while learning about issues of audience, form, media, motivation and co-creation in social practice artwork. Franceschini will invite guest artists from Futurefarmers to engage with her students and participate in the Art Department’s “Visiting Artists Colloquium.” Students will present their work at community potlucks, which lead to the final public event, “Flatbread Society Seed Journey,” in April.



Seeds for “Seed Journey”  
Photo courtesy of Futurefarmers

The course will focus on interdisciplinary research with “Seed Journey” as a source of inspiration to direct the students’ research and projects. This course will include a short history of interdisciplinary art focused on art in public places. It will address issues of audience, form, media, motivation and co-creation as it relates to making artwork that falls within the genre of social practice. Topics such as aesthetics, ethics, collaboration, media strategies and social activism will be covered through small projects and readings. Current enrolled students represent a wide range of majors including art, design, chemistry, biology, agronomy and environmental science.

*Detailed information on Franceschini, projects, guest artists, the residency and Arts Institute found on pages 3-5.*

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## **Detailed Information**

### **Spring 2016 Residency Sponsors**

Amy Franceschini’s residency is presented by the UW-Madison Arts Institute and hosted by the Art Department. Assistant Professor Meg Mitchell, Art Department, is the lead faculty of this residency. Co-sponsors include the Departments of Design Studies, Horticulture and Community and Environmental Sociology. Media support for the residency is provided by *The Cap Times*.

“Flatbread Society” and “Seed Journey” partners include Slow Space/Bjørsvika Utvikling, Henie-Onstad Art Centre and Museum Aan de Stroom (MAS). “Flatbread Society” is part of the Slow Space public art program, a curatorial vision conceived by Claire Doherty and commissioned and produced by Bjørsvika Utvikling in collaboration with the artists.

**Amy Franceschini Biography & Futurefarmers Overview** | [www.futurefarmers.com/about](http://www.futurefarmers.com/about)

Amy Franceschini is a social artist and designer who facilitates encounters and encourages exchanges and tactile inquiry through temporary and permanent public art. An overarching theme in her work is a perceived conflict between nature and culture and the contradictions inherent in this divide. Her projects challenge systems of exchange and the tools we use to hunt and gather. They allow an audience to not only imagine but also participate in and initiate change in the places we live.

Franceschini received her BFA from San Francisco State University in photography and her MFA from Stanford University. She has taught in the visual arts graduate programs at California College of the

Arts in San Francisco and Stanford University. She is the recipient of the Artadia, Cultural Innovation, Eureka Fellowship, Creative Capital, Guggenheim Fellowship and SFMOMA SECA Awards.

In 1995, Franceschini founded Futurefarmers, an international collective of artists, activists, researchers, farmers, scientists and architects working together to propose alternatives to the social, political and environmental organization of space. Their design studio serves as a platform to support art projects, an artist in residence program (to date: over 30 artists from over 10 countries) and their research interests. Futurefarmers uses various media to deconstruct systems of food, public transportation and education and to visualize and understand their intrinsic logics. They have created temporary schools, books, bus tours and large-scale exhibitions internationally.

Futurefarmers' work has been exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Hall of Science and the Whitney Museum of American Art (all in New York City) along with the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the MAXXI (Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo) in Rome. In September 2015, Franceschini and Futurefarmers were announced as finalists for the prestigious Artes Mundi 7.

## **Projects Background**

### **FLATBREAD SOCIETY** | [www.flatbreadsociety.net](http://www.flatbreadsociety.net)

Futurefarmers' "Flatbread Society" is a permanent public art project created on a waterfront development in Oslo, Norway. Formed in 2012, "Flatbread Society" has resulted in the formation of an urban gardening community called Herligheten, a Declaration of Land Use and a permanent grainfield and bakehouse. The group's dynamic activation of the site through public programs, a bake house and a cultivated grain field has attracted the imagination of farmers, bakers, oven builders, artists, activists, soil scientists and city officials. "Flatbread Society" has grown beyond Oslo into a network of projects and people that use grain as a starting point to examine food production, knowledge sharing, cultural development and socio-political formation.

### **SEED JOURNEY**

An outgrowth of "Flatbread Society," "Seed Journey" is a seafaring voyage that moves people, ideas and seeds through time and space. This voyage of crew and cargo will transport varieties of unpatented ancient grains, recently discovered in Oslo, back to the Fertile Crescent, where agriculture originated. Various stops on the route will allow the travelers to meet leading participants of the food commons movement—anthropologists, artists, chefs, farmers, microbial ecologists and writers, to collect and exchange seeds and to rotate crew members.

Participants from various stops can join a segment of the journey as it relates to their work, allowing for cross-pollination between movements and cultural exchange among the actors. At its final destination, "Seed Journey" participants will dismantle a boat and reassemble the parts into a permanent seed library and an open-air-theater titled Seed Theater.



Proposed "Seed Journey" route  
 Image courtesy of Futurefarmers

## **Guest Artists Biographies**

### **JOE RILEY\*** | [www.pleasedontfront.com](http://www.pleasedontfront.com)

Joe Riley is an artist, a printer and a Master of Yachts 200-ton Offshore Limited Mate. His work locates tangible, material experience at the intersection of history and storytelling and along the fringes of public space. Riley has biked atop abandoned railroads in the United States, paraded a mobile radio

network in Ukraine and helped organize the longest student-led occupation in United States history while studying at Cooper Union. He has been faculty at Bruce High Quality Foundation University (BHQFU), a resident at Izolyatsia and a collaborator with Futurefarmers. Riley teaches boatbuilding in Brooklyn public schools and letterpress printing and metalworking at Cooper Union.

### **STIJN SCHIFFELEERS\***

Multimedia artist Stijn Schiffeleers uses film, video and interactive installations to reveal the subtleties of life. His work embodies a sense of play and sensitivity that remind us to take a closer look at what surrounds us. He has been seen most recently soaring above the streets of San Francisco in a canoe mounted to the top of the Futurefarmers' Volvo.

### **MICHAEL SWAINE**

Michael Swaine is an inventor and designer working in many media. He is known as the analog designer of Futurefarmers and has collaborated with the studio since 1997. Swaine's ongoing project "Free Mending Library" is a library for fixing the holes in our lives —a place to borrow thread and sewing machines and talk about life. This project began as part of "Reap What You Sew Generosity Project," which involved Swaine pushing an old-fashioned ice cream style cart on wheels with a treadle-operated sewing machine on it through the streets of San Francisco. He received his BFA from Alfred University in ceramics and his MA in design from UC Berkeley. Currently, Swaine is teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle.

*\* These artists will participate and collaborate in "Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time."*

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## **UW-Madison Arts Institute's Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute has hosted the artists in residence since 1995 and formally launched the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program (IARP) in 1999. The IARP enables the Arts Institute to support extended residencies for the benefit of all arts departments and programs of the UW-Madison through its interdepartmental and interdisciplinary approach. While in residence, artists teach an interdisciplinary course for university credit, present at least one free public event and participate in community outreach activities. The program gives students exposure to working artists, provides course credit and strengthens programmatic ties among individual departments, programs and other campus and community arts entities. The program also provides opportunities for the community to meet and exchange ideas with world-renowned artists. The IARP is made possible by funding from the university's Office of the Provost.

To learn more, please visit: [www.go.wisc.edu/artsresidency](http://www.go.wisc.edu/artsresidency)

### **UW-Madison Arts Institute Overview**

As a division of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Arts Institute speaks for and on behalf of the collective voice and vision of the arts. We advance the arts as an invaluable resource to a vital university, and we promote all forms of artistic expression, experience, and interpretation as fundamental paths to engaging and understanding our world. The Institute's programs and initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program, the Madison Early Music Festival, the Wisconsin Film Festival and the Arts on Campus website.

Arts Institute: [www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu](http://www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu)

Arts on Campus (arts calendar): [www.arts.wisc.edu](http://www.arts.wisc.edu)

Social Media: @uwmadisonarts ([facebook](#), [instagram](#), [pinterest](#) & [twitter](#))

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