

Applied Museum Practices - the Fabric Workshop and Museum

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Fieldwork Site

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) is a contemporary art museum and studio, located in Philadelphia's Chinatown, that has garnered international acclaim for its artist residency and apprenticeship programs. Their mission is to collaborate with artists to reveal new possibilities through a multitude of collaborative studio projects. The FWM works with both new and established artists, encouraging them to explore new media and craft, as well as personal identity, artistic practice, and the contemporary moment. Artists-in-residence are supported by the FWM studio team in the creative production and installation of commissioned projects, displayed onsite in their gallery spaces. High school and college/post-graduate apprentices work in seasonal terms, learning a variety of textile, design, and printmaking techniques and developing their portfolios. Along with these exhibition and apprenticeship efforts, the FWM keeps a dedicated archive of materials and photographs from artists-in-residence and apprentices.



Objectives

- Observe and understand interdepartmental museum practices which allow a contemporary arts institution to function
- Facilitate connection between the institution and the surrounding community through programming and events
- Develop an art historical understanding of current artists-in-residence



My Work

I worked under Christina Roberts, Director of Education at the FWM. In October, the FWM opened a new exhibition, a collaboration with artist-in-residence Rose B Simpson (born 1983, lives and works in Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico). Much of my work surrounded this exhibition, but also consisted of:

- Researching local schools, businesses, and institutions for targeted outreach and compiling their contact information
- Writing and sending promotional materials to the contacts I researched
- Participating in exhibitions meetings and in the opening of Rose B Simpson's Dream House exhibition
- Writing and sending promotional material for an upcoming apprentice program fundraiser
- Preparing physical materials for workshops and events taking place in the education studio
- Assisting in tours of the education studio, including screenprinting demonstrations
- Getting to know employees in other departments, artists-in-residence, and current college/post-graduate apprentices



Gratitude

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