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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steve Aldeus: Mining Melrose Art Exhibit at Follow Your Art Community Studios

2022 Foundation Trust Emerging Artist solo exhibit explores the historical experiences of black and brown communities in the city of Melrose

MELROSE, MA September 27, 2022—Members of the public are invited to attend Steve Aldeus' solo exhibit running through November 11th at Follow Your Art Community Studios. Opening reception is Friday October 14th from 6-8 pm. There will be an artist talk with Steve and Jim Bennett, who wrote the initial articles that inspired the artist, at 7 pm.

Aldeus is the recipient of the 2022 Foundation Trust Emerging Artist Fellowship. The exhibit will feature works by the artist in collage, assemblage and acrylic which explore the stories of community figures of color and their lived experiences.

Aldeus has worked in greater Boston communities for most of his life. After receiving his degree in Animation and Illustration from Lesley College of Art and Design, he has pursued several creative ventures including streetwear and urban art, though teaching art has been his most rewarding role. Aldeus discovered his deep love for teaching while working as the assistant director of the Elizabeth Peabody House after school program and currently teaches art at KIPP.

“Breaking things down and building them up is a recurring theme in my work. Collage, assemblage and painting have become the language that helps me talk about my ideas of blackness. The deconstruction of materials leads my process and informs how my work develops,” says Aldeus. “The figures in my work point to ideas around identity and stereotypes through history about black men. I let the material tell me what to do and reconstruct an image through a black cultural lens.”

“This third year of the Fellowship is unique in that we are celebrating an artist from Melrose who is using his works to explore facets and figures of Melrose history that are not extensively known. We congratulate Steve on his tremendous work on this project, and thank Follow Your Art for their tireless efforts to elevate underrepresented voices,” noted Lauren Liecau, Manager of the Foundation Trust.

Kris Rodolico, FYACS Executive Director says “it has been an honor to observe Steve’s work and process this past year as he embraced the opportunity the Foundation Trust fellowship made possible. His work is engaging and thought-provoking and we are excited to help present it to the community.”

Dr Joseph Spinazzola, Executive Director of the Foundation Trust, says “Mr. Aldeus’ work is groundbreaking, as he illuminates the history of Black men in Melrose. Steve restores these men to life at a time they have never been more relevant to our community. It has been our distinct honor and privilege to sponsor this important fellowship.”

A solo exhibition of Aldeus’s work will be on view through November 11th at Follow Your Art Community Studios, 647 Main Street in Melrose, MA. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10am until 6pm and Saturdays from 10am until 1pm. Find out more at fyamelrose.org.

To view a sample of Steve Aldeus’s work, visit him on Instagram at [@stevealdeusart](https://www.instagram.com/stevealdeusart) or on his website at www.stevealdeus.com.

The Foundation Trust partners with small to medium-sized New England nonprofits to support artistic and cultural initiatives that advance inclusivity, diversity, and the expression and unification of distinct voices and perspectives.

Follow Your Art Community Studios is a non-profit community arts center located at 647 Main Street, Melrose. FYACS offers creative visual arts, writing, and theater opportunities to Melrose and surrounding communities.

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