

Marco Flagg

Artist Statement

Marco Flagg is an educator, a documentary filmmaker, and an active global citizen. The world is his classroom. He has almost a decade of teaching experience in the United States and China, and a solid background in documentary photography and video. Believing strongly in Joseph Beuys's interdisciplinary and participatory concept of social sculpture, Marco sees art as a powerful tool that can forge connections and structures in society. He has facilitated community cultural development projects in the United States and China using photography as a tool to assist underrepresented community members to share their unique perspectives with a larger community.

In *Emergent*, his submission for *Assembling*, he conducts a detailed study of the exchange of ideas between the artists participating in the current exhibition to investigate the necessary communication that influences the creative process. His project uses multimedia documentary and discourse analysis techniques to capture the evolution of ideas as they are brought forward and transformed through the artists' collaboration. The multimedia video that will result from detailed observation of the artists' interaction during the preparation of *Assembling* will give viewers a visual and sonic representation of the artists' emergent creative decisions.

Bio

Marco Flagg earned his bachelors in documentary photography from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in 2007. As the Student Leadership Core Coordinator during his senior year at RIT he lead the design and facilitation of a photography education class that partnered RIT documentary photography students with local high school students. The final projects of the students focused on parts of their community that the students felt were important. The students used the camera skills they learned over the ten-week long class to investigate their communities and create a series of pictures that made a statement about their world. Their final projects were exhibited at the Rochester City Hall and local businesses throughout the city.

After briefly interning at the photo news desk at Bloomberg LP in Hong Kong in the summer of 2007, Marco moved to Beijing to study Chinese at the Beijing Language and Culture University and has remained in China ever since. During his time in Beijing he taught art classes to migrant children with the NGO Compassion for Migrant Children. In the winter of 2009, he moved to Rural China Education Foundation's (RCEF) school site in rural Yongji, Shanxi and remained for six months teaching art classes and producing promotional materials. That summer partnered with local teachers to create a class where students learned a historical story from their elders and made an illustrated book to record it.

In the fall of 2009 he moved to Shenzhen, Guangdong to teach English at Shenzhen Middle School. While teaching at the school he attained the position of Coordinator of Pre-AP English program where he designed the syllabus for entry-level academic English classes and supervised a department of five teachers. He recently graduated with a masters in applied linguistics from Hong Kong University and has left his English teaching job to focus again on art education and documentary projects. He is currently developing documentary and community cultural development projects in urban and rural China.