



2015 MARN Mentor / Mentee Exhibition connects emerging, established artists

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**For more info:** Cassie A. Sacotte, Milwaukee Artist Resource Network;  
414-604-6276; [cassie@artsinmilwaukee.org](mailto:cassie@artsinmilwaukee.org)

**MILWAUKEE...** In 2005, Milwaukee Artist Resource Network developed MARNmentors to strengthen the network of support for artists, provide in-depth professional resources and contribute to the health of Wisconsin's arts community. MARN acts as a liaison between established working artists with a desire to pass on their knowledge and professional experience to emerging artists who are selected as MARNmentees.

At the end of each program cycle, MARNmentors culminates in an exhibition that highlights the professional and personal developments and collaborations between our talented mentors and mentees.

**2015 MARN Mentor /Mentee Exhibition opens Saturday, January 9, 2016, 5 – 10 p.m. at Var Gallery & Studios in historic Walker's Point (643 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street). The exhibition concludes with a closing reception on Saturday, January 23, 2016, 5 – 10 p.m.**

Our 2015 MARN mentors and mentees are: Portia Cobb and Maeve Jackson, Raoul G. Deal and Adam Stoner, Thomas Hellstrom and Nina Ghanbarzadeh, Nikki Janzen and Kavon Jones, Barbara Miner and Missy Ziebart, Jason S. Yi and Cristina Ossers, Della Wells and Symphony Swan and Carley Knight.

Each pair of mentors and mentees worked together for one year; some met for a few hours each month for critique, others met weekly for a more in-depth exchange of skills and ideas. At the end of their experience, each of the mentors and mentees were asked to reflect upon their experiences over the year. Here are a few of their thoughts:

“Our conversations and projects over this period have been like a dance of reacting and reflecting upon each other’s work. She [Portia Cobb] admires my work and pushes me to keep creating.”  
– Maeve Jackson (mentee)

“It was Barbara [Miner], who pushed me to not be afraid to get closer and to really dive in to the subject matter. By the end of my mentorship I was able to get some very beautiful portraits and got to know my subjects on a very personal level.”  
– Missy Ziebart (mentee)

“Participation in the MARNmentors program is an extension of my desire to make a difference and cultivate a vibrant and supportive art community in Milwaukee.”  
– Jason S. Yi (mentor)

Special thanks to the Brico Fund for supporting the 2015 MARNmentor Program.