

Art Cart

Faisal Abdu'Allah: Blu³eprint



Photo by Sarah Maughan.



Faisal Abdu'Allah is a British-born, Wisconsin-based artist, trained barber, print making professor, and Associate Dean for the Arts in the School of Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison. His artwork centers on powerful cultural representations showing systems of power.

Abdu'Allah's pose may be familiar, as it mirrors a sculpture that has been a feature of Madison's public art landscape—*Abraham Lincoln* (1909). The bronze monument by Adolph Weinman is situated on top of the University of Wisconsin's Bascom Hill. In recent years, the monument has generated controversy among some UW students who argue that President Lincoln's anti-immigrant policies and his belief, despite his opposition to slavery, in white racial superiority means that the monument should be removed. Instead, Abdu'Allah proposed an alternate solution: Commission artists to create new monuments that represent their own aesthetics, histories, and experiences. "My philosophy," Abdu'Allah says, "is that artists have always been the shapers of social consciousness, and for me this piece illustrates that." He sees both the barber's salon and the artist's studio as sites of becoming, where cultural activity unfolds and self-reflection evolves; Universal spaces of physical renewal and social solidarity. Hair cutting gives us a sense of renewal and contains the traces of who we are from our DNA.

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TURN OVER FOR INSTRUCTIONS



Photo by Jim Escalante.

Ideas:

- Look at the sculpture *Blu³eprint*. What do you think he wants to say about the act of hair cutting and his statue carved out of limestone?
- Discover how an ordinary barbershop tool can become art. Decorate a pick, comb or mirror using art materials that reflect the identity and style of the user.

Materials:

- Acrylic paint
- Brushes
- Tacky glue
- Hot glue gun and stick
- Glitter
- Permanent markers
- Sequins and string

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Blu³eprint is located and can be viewed anytime at State and Henry Street in Downtown Madison.
FREE Admission • Galleries Open Thursday-Sunday • 12-6 PM

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