



UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists -
Ephemera

UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists

Summer 2018

#UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists Intro Panel

Fairfield University Art Museum

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The Fairfield University Art Museum, in partnership with **#UNLOAD** and the Guns In The Hands of Artists Foundation, presents **#UNLOAD: Guns in the Hands of Artists**. Each piece in the exhibition was created using decommissioned guns, taken off the streets of New Orleans via a gun buyback program, and distributed to painters, sculptors, photographers, poets, and other artists who used the decommissioned firearms to create works of art that address the issue of guns and gun violence in America. The exhibition originated in mid-1990s New Orleans, where a spiking murder rate led artist Brian Borrello to conceive of the first iteration of the *Guns in the Hands of Artists* exhibition by bringing the discussion about the role of guns and gun violence in our society into the realm of art – art as the language for dialogue, and possibly change – without the often partisan and polarized politics that surround the issue. Borrello and gallery owner Jonathan Ferrara mounted this exhibition at Positive Space The Gallery in September 1996 in the Lower Garden District of New Orleans. In 2014, Ferrara reprised the exhibition featuring new work by internationally recognized artists. Through their own medium, each artist has used the decommissioned firearms to create works that express a thought, make a statement, open a discussion, and stimulate thinking about guns in our culture.

This exhibition is a part of **#UNLOAD**, an arts-based initiative in Connecticut that seeks to drive consensus around the divisive issue of gun violence. Visit the unloadusa.org website for more information about the many events taking place across the state in 2018 that will engage our communities in vibrant dialogue about this important issue. **#UNLOAD** and the Fairfield University Art Museum believe in the power of the arts to ignite change in society.