Multimedia Public Artist Amy Franceschini Visits Madison October 26-28, 2015
in Preparation for Spring 2016
UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency

MADISON, WI — The University of Wisconsin–Madison Arts Institute along with the Department of Art welcome multimedia environmental artist, Amy Franceschini, for a planning visit for her spring 2016 Interdisciplinary Arts Residency. The artist and Futurefarmers, a group of art and farming practitioners founded by Franceschini, have recently been shortlisted for the prestigious Artes Mundi 7.

During her residency at UW-Madison, Franceschini will teach a course in interdisciplinary social art in public places, “Ecology of Research: Seeds of Time.” Students will participate in Futurefarmers’ international public art project, Flatbread Society, by researching and undertaking projects using local knowledge and resources to develop social and ecological resilience. In a letter of support for Franceschini’s residency, Professor Emeritus Jack Kloppenburg of the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology expressed his excitement for “the rich possibilities offered for using the arts to provide avenues for engaging the broader public – on and off campus – with the social and political and biological and...
environmental issues that would be revealed.” As part of the residency, students and community members will publicly present their research and projects at a final event, tentatively titled “Seed Routes,” accompanied by a potluck.

Franceschini will connect with various entities across the campus and community during her brief planning visit. The Arts Institute will also host an informal meet and greet at a brown bag lunch.

**Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

- **12:00 – 2:00pm | Brown Bag Lunch with Amy Franceschini**
  
  Virginia Harrison Parlor, Lathrop Hall | 1050 University Avenue
  
  Students, faculty, and staff from all disciplines and the greater Madison community are encouraged and welcome to bring your lunch to meet our spring 2016 Artist in Residence and discuss her work and upcoming Interdisciplinary Arts Residency. Please drop in even if you're not available for the entire time.

Amy Franceschini is an artist and educator who creates formats for exchange and production that question and challenge the social, cultural, and environmental systems that surround her. An overarching theme in her work is a perceived conflict between humans and nature. Her projects reveal the ways that local politics are affected by globalization.

The UW-Madison Department of Art will serve as host department, with Assistant Professor Meg Mitchell as lead faculty. Co-sponsors include the Design Studies Department, the Department of Horticulture, and the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**About Amy Franceschini**

In 1995, Amy founded [Futurefarmers](http://www.futurefarmers.org) and in 2004, she co-founded [Free Soil](http://www.freesoil.org), an international collective of artists, activists, researchers, and gardeners who work together to propose alternatives to the social, political and environmental organization of space. Free Soil has exhibited internationally and received funding from the Danish Arts Council, and Zero One, San Jose to create temporary public art projects. Her solo and collaborative work have been exhibited around the world including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, and ZKM (Center for Art and Media) in Karlsruhe, Germany. She received her BFA from San Francisco State University in photography and her MFA from Stanford University. She is the recipient of awards from the following organizations: Artadia, Center for Cultural Innovation, Creative Capital, and the San Francisco
Museum of Modern Art’s Society of the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) along with Guggenheim and Eureka Fellowships.

**UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program**

The Arts Institute has hosted artists in residence since 1995 and formally launched the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program (IARP) in 1999. The IARP enables the Arts Institute to support extended residencies for the benefit of all arts departments and programs of the University of Wisconsin-Madison through its interdepartmental and interdisciplinary approach. While in residence, artists teach an interdisciplinary course for university credit, present at least one free public event, and participate in community outreach activities. The program gives students exposure to working artists, provides course credit, and strengthens programmatic ties among individual departments, programs, and other campus and community arts entities. The program also provides opportunities for the community to meet and exchange ideas with world-renowned artists.

To learn more, please visit: [go.wisc.edu/artsresidency](go.wisc.edu/artsresidency)

**UW-Madison Arts Institute Overview – “The Voice of the Arts”**

As a division of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Arts Institute speaks for and on behalf of the collective voice and vision of the arts. We advance the arts as an invaluable resource to a vital university, and we promote all forms of artistic expression, experience, and interpretation as fundamental paths to engaging and understanding our world. The Institute’s programs and initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program, the Madison Early Music Festival, the Wisconsin Film Festival, and the Arts on Campus website.

Arts Institute: [www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu](http://www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu)
Arts on Campus (arts calendar): [www.arts.wisc.edu](http://www.arts.wisc.edu)
Social Media: [@uwmadisonarts](https://www.facebook.com), [instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [pinterest & twitter](https://twitter.com)

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