

LEE BOROSON

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Students create 'insider' artwork

By Alexis Mante

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NEW HAVEN — It's 2 p.m. in downtown New Haven, but the hustle and bustle on the streets doesn't seem to break the concentration of local high school students working at Artspace.

Under the guidance of sculptor Lee Boroson, 13 teens from Greater New Haven high schools, are building miniature replicas of balconies from across city neighborhoods.

Eventually, the hundreds of tiny balconies will be put together with light fixtures and displayed in the Artspace gallery.

Boroson, who is an outsider by virtue of living in Brooklyn, N.Y., said he hoped the students — Greater New Haven's insiders — will portray an insightful image of New Haven.

Boroson, a Stamford native, has been a teacher at the Rhode Island School of Design for five years and also teaches contemporary art in New York City. He drives here five days a week to guide the students.

"It's really interesting to work with an artist that's not from around here," said Allison Cohen, 15, a High School in the Community student, who is in the program.

"You know you're here and you know what's going on because you've seen it all, but having someone not from around here, you get a different perspective," Allison said.

She is expanding her artistic horizons to sculpture, but her favorite medium remains drawing.

"I draw while I'm waiting for my balconies to dry," said Allison, who plans to go to art school.

Another art student, Kay Sadowitz, 15, from Wilbur Cross High School, said, "I signed up (for the program) because it sounded like an interesting experience and I thought I'd have nothing to do this summer. I've done about six balconies already."



Peter Hvizdak/Register

Sculptor Lee Boroson works with Tyreece Gary, 17, of New Haven to put together the Artspace-sponsored project "A View From Here." The project is a collaborative effort between 13 high school students and Boroson.

Kay said her favorite medium is photography.

Boroson, who usually works on his own said, "This is really different than what I normally do. It's been really great. Everyday I come in I can see more and more excitement in the kids eyes, it's really amazing."

"It's great to share my

process (of art) with them. They all have different skills. We work from 1 to 4 p.m, but they come in early and leave later," Boroson added.

Helen Kauder, the director of Artspace, said the kids started with photographs of balconies in New Haven, but are now doing their own thing.

The students will get to show off their work at an opening reception between 5-7 p.m Friday at Artspace, 50 Orange St., New Haven. "View From Here, A Collaborative Sculpture Installation," will remain on display through Sept. 2.

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Alexis Mante is a Register intern.