



## **ARTISTS THEO SIMS AND ZACHARI LOGAN DISCUSS NEW DIRECTIONS, WHEN A WEED IS JUST A WEED, AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM ZACHARI LOGAN'S ISCP RESIDENCY IN BROOKLYN, NY.**

**Theo Sims:** *So you've been here for a month now Zachari. Can you tell me what's been a real highlight or series of highlights for you in these first thirty days?*

**Zachari Logan:** A couple of things come to mind. First of all it would be living in Brooklyn. I've spent a lot of time in New York in the past, but I've spent virtually no time in Brooklyn, other than maybe going to the Brooklyn Museum in Prospect Park. So, it's been nice being around so many artists because they all live in Bushwick - where I live - and I've gone to a lot of openings, and met a lot of local Brooklyn artists too. There are lots of connections that way. That's been fantastic.

**Theo Sims:** *So, what are you going to be working on whilst you are here on your residency?*

**Zachari Logan:** Well, I've started a couple of drawings that are moving in a slightly new direction - a continuance of other works but a reconfiguring of content.

**TS:** *How are they new? What do you think is the shift?*

**ZL:** I suppose, in this work, it's a fusion of different types of space... The space and the composition of the works are quite different. Thinking about the absent body, and the melding of genres - for example, this drawing which presents a ditch, but with a still life in it... thinking about figuration without actually (presenting) a human figure. And then my latest drawing that's about a different vantage point, and spatial experimentation... Composed of all of these flowers and plants that are more about imagination so none of these are from observation, they are all just from my head. Some of them are recognizable; the dandelion for example. But some of these flowers, (*points to drawing*) like this weird pink thing you mentioned earlier, it's kind of a peony but it's kind of not.

**TS:** *Almost a peony, but more like a suffocated rose.*

**ZL:** Right, and the leaves are kind of almost like a tomato's leaves or a potato, they're not really peony leaves. So these are all weeds and plants spliced together.

**TS:** *And a weed is just a misplaced plant.*

**ZL:** Right, it's not a weed. I mean a weed is just a weed.

**TS:** *A weed is a weed is a weed, as a rose is a rose is a rose.*

**ZL:** A weed, is a weed, is a weed... I think other than these shifts in drawing I will work on ceramics. I have found a place in which I can work and fire, so that's likely what I'll do. I won't probably work in my studio on ceramics, I'll probably go to a studio that's around the corner so that is my project for next week.

**TS:** *And that's good you can have access to a ceramics studio.*

**ZL:** Yes it's a pay-as-you-go sort of thing, its right around the corner on Grand Street. It's not far. And that's the other thing about this residency - I find that it's very central to everything. It's really not difficult to get into Manhattan.

**TS:** *I just want to say too that I love being around other artists in this environment and actually just the last couple of days going around the Met with you and Wayne (Baerwaldt) and your enthusiasm for seeing some of this art and picking out stuff in the Met that I could have quite possibly walked past and not really seen. It really drew some amazing connections for me like seeing the 1700's Franz Xaver Messerschmidt [head sculpture](#) with the grimace.*

**ZL:** Oh my god!!!

**TS:** *And it seems so contemporary.*

**ZL:** It's incredible...

**TS:** *And it's been great to see art through other artists' eyes.*

**ZL:** Oh yeah, It's been a really amazing benefit for me on this residency for me as well.

*Interview by Manitoba artist Theo Sims*

**About the Artists:**

Currently based in Regina, **Zachari Logan** is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan's Master of Fine Arts program. He works primarily in drawing, ceramics, and installation practices, exploring the intersection between masculinity, identity, memory, and place. Logan has been exhibited widely, in group and solo exhibitions throughout North America and Europe, and his work can be found in the permanent collections of the Remai Modern Art Gallery of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Line Gallery: Centre for Contemporary Canadian Drawing (North Bay, ON), the Leslie-Lohman Museum (New York City) and in many private collections worldwide.

**Theo Sims** is a visual artist whose installations often focus on the juxtaposition of the familiar and the everyday, with some form of contextual subversion or perversion. Sims addresses serious social, ephemeral and personal themes with a sharp sense of humor. He lives in Winnipeg, MB, and has exhibited in numerous exhibitions nationally and internationally. Articles about Sims' work have appeared in *Canadian Art*, *The Globe & Mail*, *Border Crossings*, *BlackFlash Magazine*, *The New York Times* and *Maclean's Magazine*.

