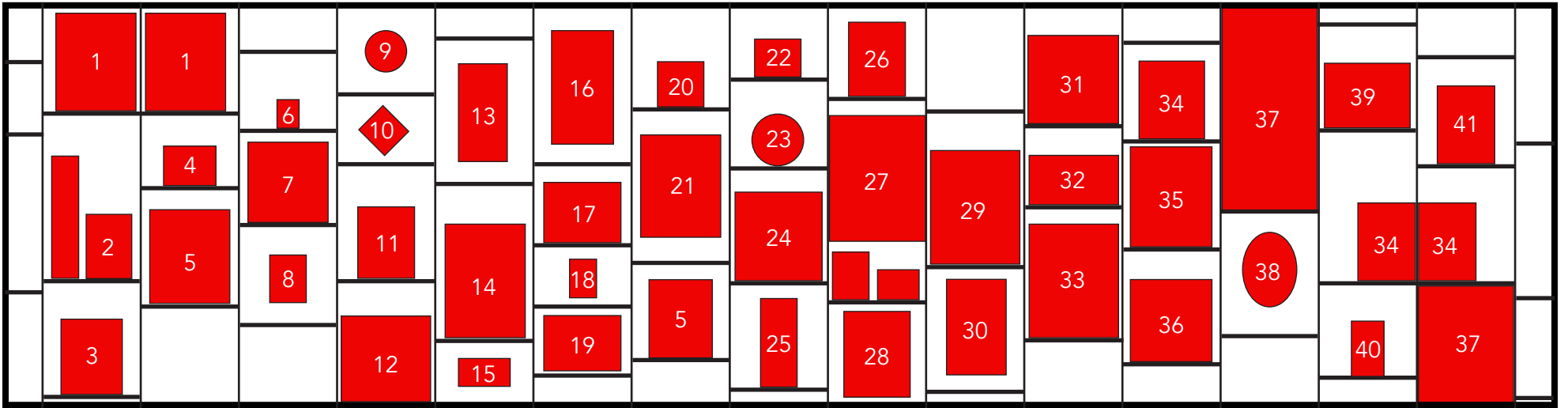


DEBTFAIR

HOW DOES 3.3 MILLION DOLLARS OF COLLECTIVE DEBT AFFECT YOUR ART?

DEBTFAIR IS AN ONGOING ARTISTIC CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN THE CULTURE INDUSTRY AND ARTISTS' GROWING DEBT BURDENS. IN COLLABORATION WITH ART LEAGUE HOUSTON, THE FOLLOWING 66 TEXAS-BASED ARTISTS HAVE RESPONDED TO AN OPEN CALL TO PRESENT THEIR ARTWORK IN COLLECTIVE BUNDLES DIRECTLY IN THE WALLS OF THE ART LEAGUE HOUSTON MAIN GALLERY. CREATING PROFILES ON WWW.DEBTFAIR.ORG AND SHARING INFORMATION ON THEIR ECONOMIC REALITIES, PARTICIPATING ARTISTS PRESENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ARTISTS INDEBTED TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: \$2,189,293.78 COLLECTIVE DEBT



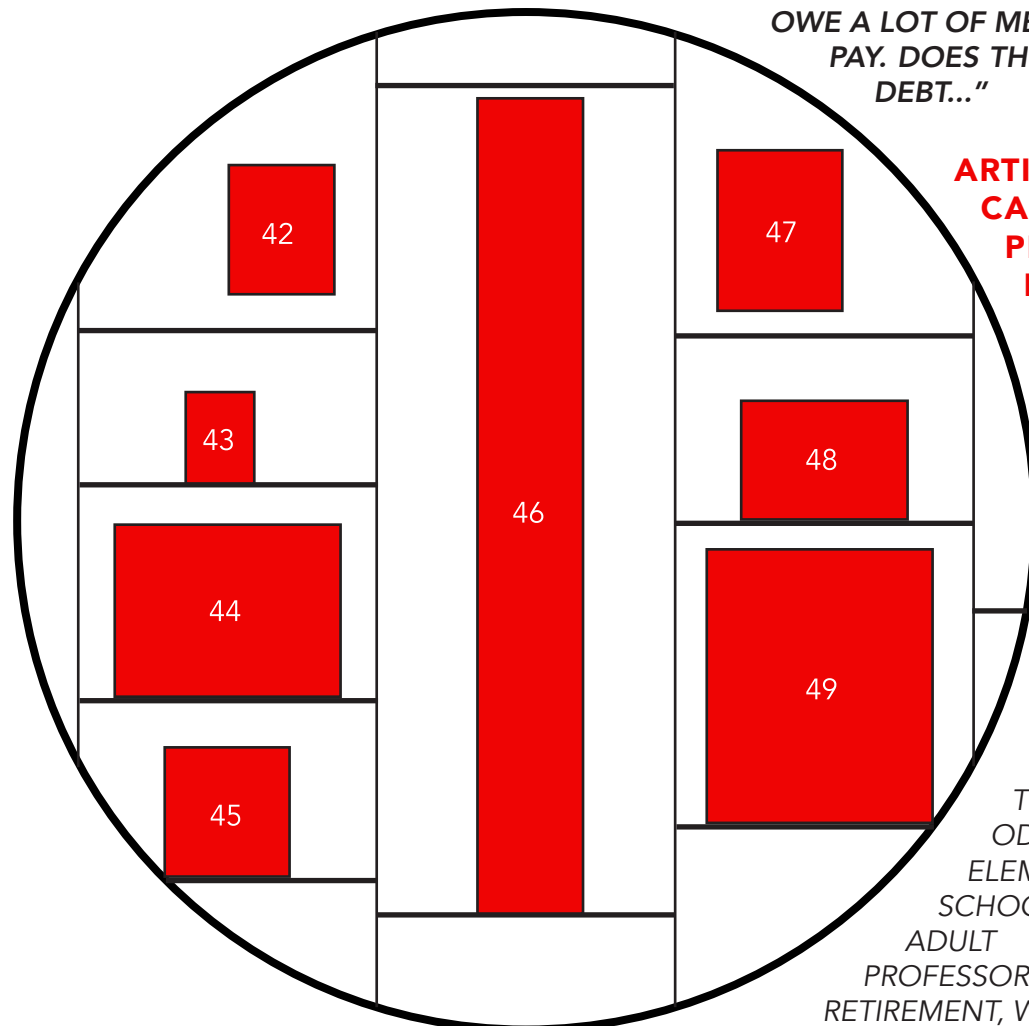
1. Catarina Williams
2. Lina Dib
3. Gisette Padilla
4. Laura Napier
5. Tania Breton Santin
6. Bill Davenport
7. Renée Cleare
8. Betsy Huete
9. Tanya Ermakova
10. Mauricio Menjivar
11. Taylor Smith
12. Mason Rankin
13. Anonymous
14. Fernando Ramirez
15. Michael Martin
16. Ryan Robinson
17. Anonymous
18. Nadia Al-Khalifah
19. Alexa Johnson
20. Anonymous
21. David Delgado
22. Alan Willard Moore
23. Hang Gao
24. Raul Gonzalez
25. Josette Jellison
26. Lauren Yandell
27. Russell Etchen
28. Jeremy Keas
29. Cameron Coffman
30. Seth Alverson
31. Quentin Pace
32. Maria Cristina Jadick
33. Tania Botelho
34. Patricia Aya
35. Nina Marinick
36. Melissa Walter
37. Anonymous
38. Tracy L
39. Nancy June Wood
40. Terry Suprean
41. Marc Newsome
42. Melinda Laszczynski
43. Ronald L. Jones
44. Leslie Guzmán
45. A.M. Schaer
46. Iva Kinnaird
47. James Scheuren
48. Levi Rosen
49. Kurt A. Hill, Jr.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS ARE INDEBTED TO 27 INDIVIDUAL BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

AMERICAN EDUCATION SERVICES (1), AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK (1), BANK OF AMERICA (3), CHASE (6), CITIBANK (2), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (1), DISCOVER CARD (1), FEDLOAN SERVICING (3), FROST BANK (2), GENERAL MEDICAL (1), GENERAL MORTGAGE LOAN (1), GENERAL STUDENT LOAN (4), GREAT LAKES HIGHER EDUCATION CORPORATION (1), HOUSTON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (1), ICBC (1), JSC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (1), MOHELA (1), MY GREAT LAKES (1), NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA (1), NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (1), NELNET (1), PNC (1), SALLIE MAE (1), TDECU (1), UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CREDIT UNION (1), USAA (3), WELLS FARGO (3)

"I USED FEDERAL LOANS TO HELP PAY FOR COLLEGE. I LOOKED OUT-OF-STATE FOR A SCHOOL WITH A WORTHWHILE BALANCE OF QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY. EVEN WITH SOME VERY HELPFUL FINANCIAL AID, THIS MADE ENROLLMENT POSSIBLE BUT NOT DEBT-FREE. REGARDLESS, THE PATH OF AN ARTIST IS WHAT I'VE KNOWN I'VE NEEDED MY ENTIRE LIFE, SO I MADE THE CHOICE, AND PRESENTLY REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT ULTIMATELY IT WAS THE RIGHT ONE."

"I AM NOT IN DEBT AND HOPE NOT TO BE. OH...WAIT, I DO OWE A LOT OF MEDICAL BILLS THAT I CAN'T POSSIBLY PAY. DOES THIS PUT ME IN DEBT? MAYBE I AM IN DEBT..."



ARTISTS WHO STATE ART AS THEIR CAREER AND WORK MULTIPLE, PRECARIOUS JOBS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS:

\$333,455.11 COLLECTIVE DEBT

BARTENDING, WAITING TABLES, CATERING, CLEANING HOUSES, PET SITTING, FIGURE MODELING, JUNK DEALER, ART DEALER, COMMISSIONS, ART HANDLING, SECURITY GUARD, ART GUARD, ARTIST ASSISTANT, ART WRITING, GRANT WRITING, GRAPHIC DESIGN, BRAND DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM PRODUCTION, PHOTO LAB TECHNICIAN, DAY JOBS, SIDE JOBS, ODD JOBS, FREELANCE, PIECEMEAL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, ADULT EDUCATOR, ONLINE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, PIANO PLAYER, PULLING FROM RETIREMENT, WORKING A CORPORATE JOB

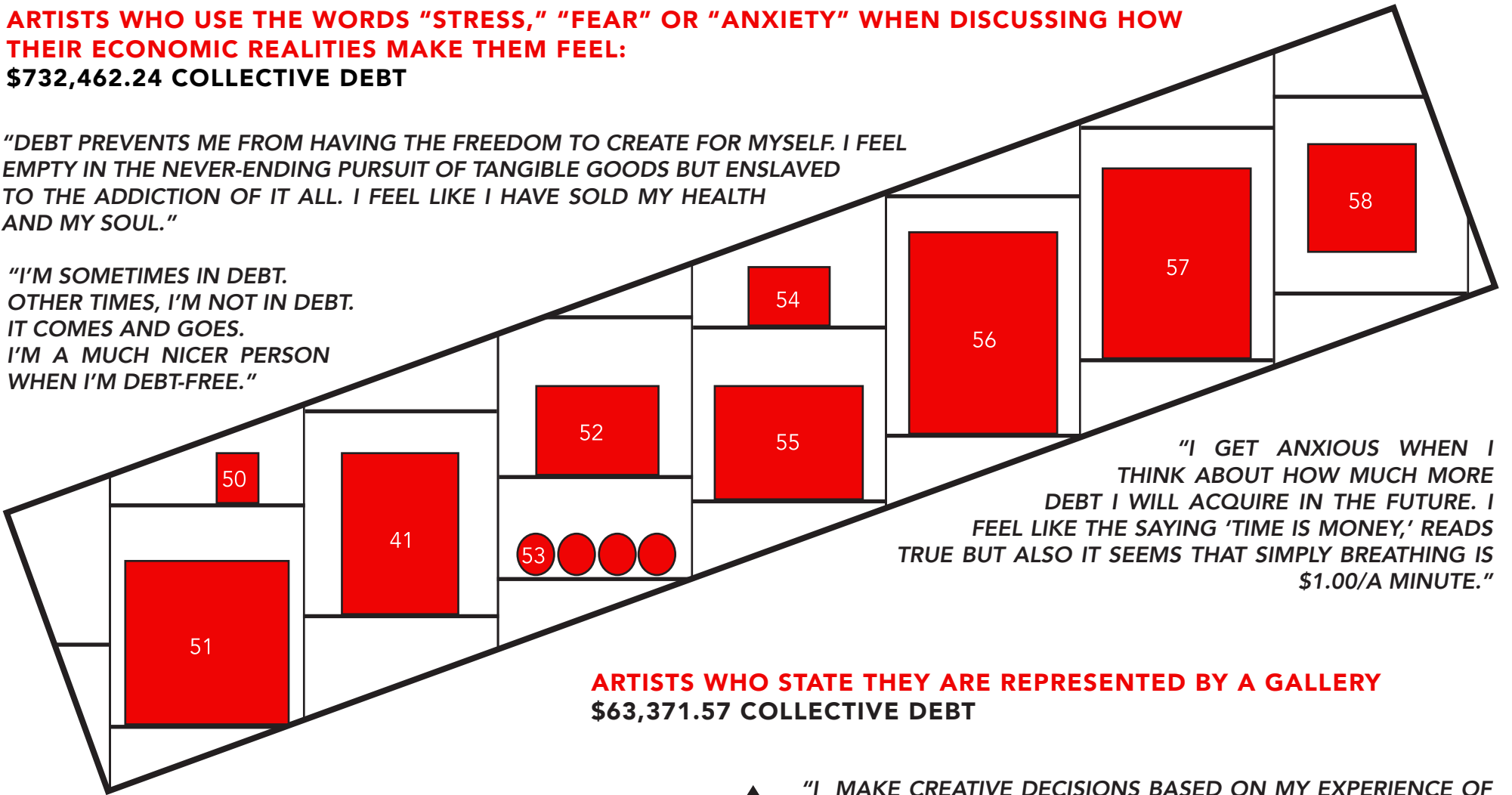
"YOUNGER PEOPLE CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN MY PROJECTS - IN COLLECTIVE PROJECTS I DEPEND UPON TO DO MY WORK - BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T THE TIME FREE FROM THEIR WORK. I FEEL I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY OR SHARE WITH THE YOUNG CREATIVE INDEBTED TODAY THAT RESONATES WITH THEIR OPPRESSIVE EXPERIENCES."

**ARTISTS WHO USE THE WORDS "STRESS," "FEAR" OR "ANXIETY" WHEN DISCUSSING HOW THEIR ECONOMIC REALITIES MAKE THEM FEEL:
\$732,462.24 COLLECTIVE DEBT**

"DEBT PREVENTS ME FROM HAVING THE FREEDOM TO CREATE FOR MYSELF. I FEEL EMPTY IN THE NEVER-ENDING PURSUIT OF TANGIBLE GOODS BUT ENSLAVED TO THE ADDICTION OF IT ALL. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE SOLD MY HEALTH AND MY SOUL."

"I'M SOMETIMES IN DEBT. OTHER TIMES, I'M NOT IN DEBT. IT COMES AND GOES. I'M A MUCH NICER PERSON WHEN I'M DEBT-FREE."

"I GET ANXIOUS WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH MORE DEBT I WILL ACQUIRE IN THE FUTURE. I FEEL LIKE THE SAYING 'TIME IS MONEY,' READS TRUE BUT ALSO IT SEEMS THAT SIMPLY BREATHING IS \$1.00/A MINUTE."



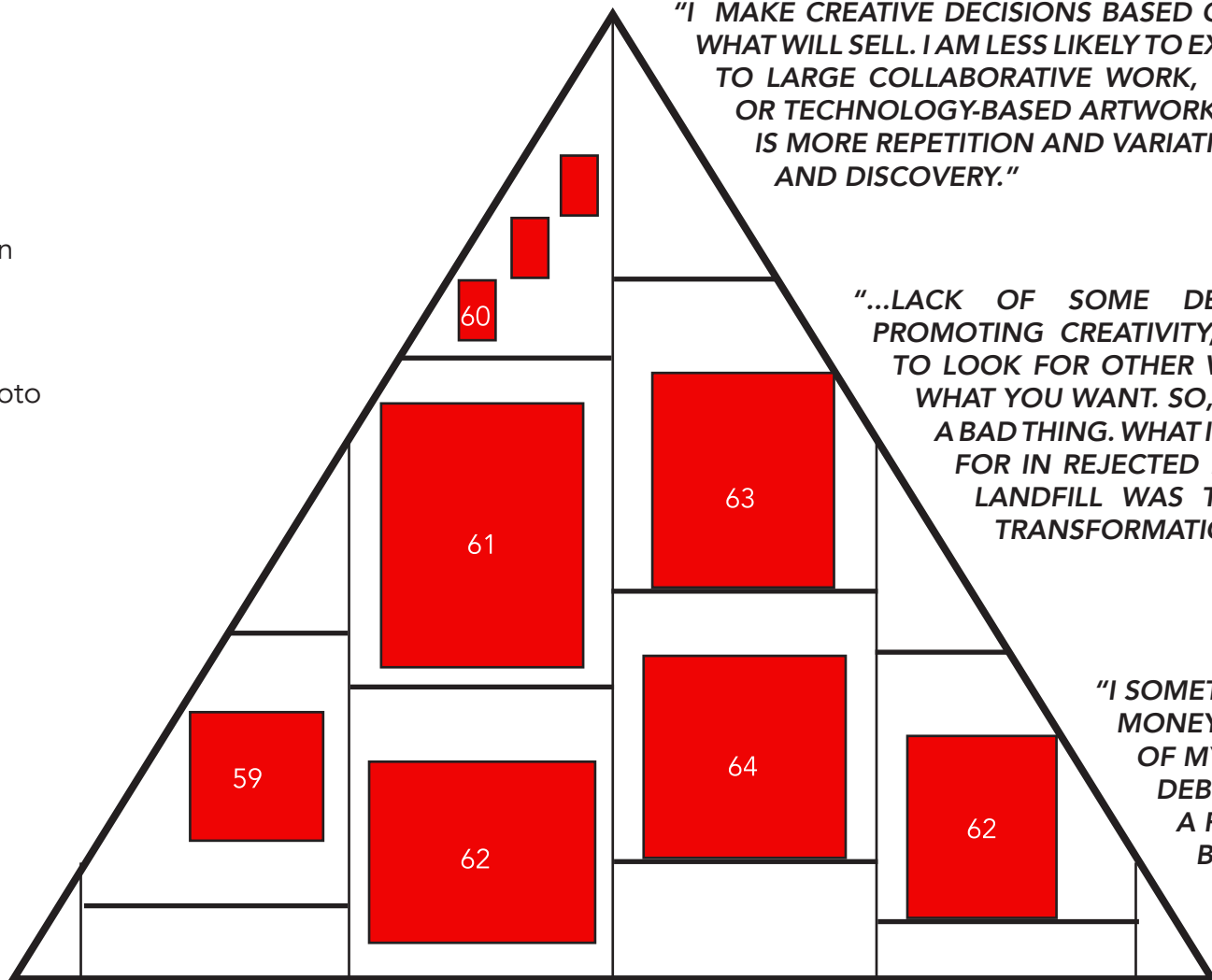
**ARTISTS WHO STATE THEY ARE REPRESENTED BY A GALLERY
\$63,371.57 COLLECTIVE DEBT**

"I MAKE CREATIVE DECISIONS BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE OF WHAT WILL SELL. I AM LESS LIKELY TO EXPERIMENT OR COMMIT TO LARGE COLLABORATIVE WORK, PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS OR TECHNOLOGY-BASED ARTWORK. MY STUDIO PRACTICE IS MORE REPETITION AND VARIATION THAN INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY."

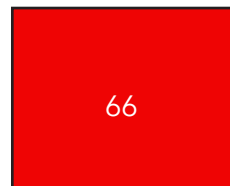
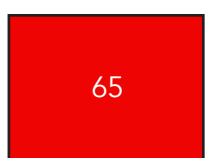
"...LACK OF SOME DEVICES IS ACTUALLY PROMOTING CREATIVITY, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO LOOK FOR OTHER WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU WANT. SO, IT'S NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING. WHAT I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR IN REJECTED MATERIALS BOUND TO LANDFILL WAS THEIR POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFORMATION."

"I SOMETIMES BORROW MONEY, BUT I DON'T THINK OF MYSELF AS BEING 'IN DEBT.' I THINK OF DEBT AS A FINANCIAL TOOL; YOU BORROW MONEY TO ENACT SOME PLAN THAT WILL MAKE MORE MONEY."

- 50. Amy Beth Wright
- 51. Katherine Culbertson
- 52. Anonymous
- 53. Lucas Berd
- 54. Claire Webb
- 55. Ben Tecumseh De Soto
- 56. Greg Scott
- 57. Bereniz Martinez
- 58. Lara Anne
- 59. Karen Smith
- 60. Francisco Moreno
- 61. Olga Starostina
- 62. Pia Greenberg
- 63. Diane Fraser
- 64. Vanessa Estrada
- 65. Ken Watkins
- 66. B. Root



2 OUT OF 66 ARTISTS DID NOT FIT INTO THE CATEGORIES OUTLINED ABOVE AND HAVE BEEN POSITIONED OUTSIDE OF THE DEBTFAIR MATRIX FOR ART LEAGUE HOUSTON.



"MAKING ART IS A TIME I FEEL AT EASE. I ESCAPE THE FEELING OF BEING IN DEBT."

"[DEBT] SEEMS LIKE A NORMAL WAY OF LIFE HERE IN THE US. SO THAT'S WHAT YOU DO--GET IN DEBT..."

THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

AMERICAN EDUCATION SERVICES, AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK, BANK OF AMERICA, BARD COLLEGE, CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY, CHASE, CITIBANK, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART, CUNY, DISCOVER CARD, FEDLOAN SERVICING, FROST BANK, GREAT LAKES HIGHER EDUCATION CORPORATION, HOME DEPOT, HOUSTON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, ICBC, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, JSC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, MASTERCARD, MOHELA, MY GREAT LAKES, NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA, NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, NELNET, OUR PARENTS, PNC, PRATT INSTITUTE, RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, SALLIE MAE/NAVIENT, SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, TDECU, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CREDIT UNION, USAA, WELLS FARGO