

ARTISTS' STATEMENTS    2016 BARAKA RESIDENCY

When Baraka decided to have Gabriel from Senegal, French speaking, and Sahak from Armenia, Armenian speaking, I feared the lack of common language would be a problem. But, the first day they arrived, they cut and rolled logs from an old dead trunk of a maple from the forest and began work. Their common ground and communication was their work ethic, their love of wood, and their choice of tools. Gabriel began to carve with a traditional axe that he had carved the handle for and Sahak got to work on a "plow", a universal symbol of rebirth. They communicated in a universal three-dimensional hands-on ethics.

Kardash Onnig, Founder & Direct Carver

Sahak Poghosian.

I chose to come to BARAKA in Stanfordville, because here they do not "make" art, they live art. I myself consider art making playing with materials. My work is the continuation of my childhood games. Only the tools and places have changed.

Here @Baraka the subject of my game is the wood from the trees since we live in the woods. Had I been in the desert, the subject would have been sand. Of all the games played throughout history, the one game that has been important for me has been the search for the grail, the search for the unknown. That search has lead me from Urban consciousness to my inner nature consciousness.

Gabriel, with whom I share the residency, lives in his nature. He feels nature as Africans do, and the work he is producing is born from his inner nature.

TITLE OF HIS MAIN PIECE: HOLY GRAIL

Gabriel Kemzo Malou.

I was interested in BARAKA because its artistic and philosophic structure reflects mine, that of humanity and environment. My work @BARAKA is not about the piece of wood, but to experience the three dimensionality in the human that confirms its multidimensionality. To be human is a living spirit.

It is not necessary to go far for our interior quest. Through work I am able to dedicate quiet time for that quest. The present work is an altar for silence to meditate the spirit of diversity of the world.

TITLE OF HIS PIECE: C'EST ICI " IT IS HERE"