

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#



Katie, Fortress Studios, 2013 (printed 2014)

“There is a lot of freedom here, there is a sense of lawlessness that I like to talk about. There’s this lawlessness that exists through freedom of expression, creation, exploration, adventure. A lot of urban exploring going on, a lot of people entering into buildings, crossing boundaries, lines, breaking rules, acting out on opinions, and structure, and totally breaking the boundaries that are set up by the capitalist mentality. So, I feel like Detroit offers, you know, this vacant platform. I feel like when you look at these microcosms of community, they are really pushing right now with gentrification and structure of the city, which I’m opposed to. It is really, sort of an upheaval of young artists to be replaced with money and figures and I do not agree with that. I believe that we are a grassroots community and that people want to come and be a part of that. They don’t want to come and be a part of this plastic lie. I’m for grassroots organizations, youth culture taking over their city, owning their city, doing what they want to do, and the real thing to happen not some prefabricated gentrification. That’s what I’m a little worried about right now with Detroit. We’re, like, borderlining that, and it’s a little scary for me because I’ve been here for a long time, and I’ve put the work in and a lot of other artists have, too. And to see that kind of fall apart because people see dollar signs is scary to me.”