

**Please Join Us For The Opening Reception:
Friday September 9, 6 - 8 p.m.**

The Westport Arts Center presents its fall 2016 exhibition and related community programming, *MORE Than Words* - courage, resilience and empowerment in the face of bullying. The exhibition is curated by guest curator Gerry Snyder, Dean of the Pratt Institute School of Art, with lead exhibition sponsorship generously provided by J.P. Morgan.

MORE Than Words examines the topic of bullying within a broad cultural context that considers how perceived imbalances of social, physical, or political power can be abused to marginalize others. The exhibition includes artistic expressions of gender, racial, religious, geo-political, and age inequality, as well as works that serve to demonstrate the impact of bullying and cyberbullying. Assembled together for the first time, this selection of thought-provoking art aims to provide a platform to inspire dialogue and change.

"Bullying is harmful enough when confined to the schoolyard but its true impact is exponentially greater when these power differentials are played out within the social institutions of relationships, the workplace, politics, and the world. Artists have long responded to these inequities through their work, able to speak truth to power in a way not available to others," explained Snyder.

The range of work in the exhibition spans decades, even centuries, reflecting historical examples and precedent for art utilized as a form of social activism. Addressing the inherent imbalances, appropriation, and abuse of power associated with bullying, the exhibition covers the topics of racism in the early 20th century, the rise of gender equality and LGBTQ issues of the mid-century, to the current state of race relations and cyberbullying in the present day.

The exhibition is accompanied by a robust program calendar of events including participation of the Anti-Defamation League, NBA Cares, Athlete Ally, Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation, National Charity League, Westport Library, Westport Country Playhouse, Triangle Community Center, SKATEmovement (K2BK founders), Westport Magazine/Moffly Media, and Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County.

MORE Than Words is sponsored by:

Exclusive Media Sponsorship provided by:

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www.westportartscenter.org

The Westport Arts Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Visual and Performing Arts Organization dedicated to creating arts experiences that enrich the lives of area residents and the entire community.

The Westport Arts Center also receives philanthropic support from the Katherine and Howard Aibel Foundation; Artur and Heida Hermanns Holde Foundation, Inc.; AB Bernstein; the Brant Foundation; CBP; Cohen and Wolf, P.C.; Connecticut Cigar Company; Connecticut Office of the Arts; Delamar Southport; Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.; DanceSport; Dragone Motor Cars; Fairfield County Bank; Finn, Dixon & Herling LLP; Fleishers Craft Butchery; 4th Row Films; Geigers Home and Garden; GWAY Marketing Gymnasium; Hal Prince Music; the Hall Art Foundation; J.P. Morgan; Land Rover Milford; Lillian August; the Mitchell's Family of Stores; Moffly Media; Newman's Own Foundation; Rosenkranz Foundation; Saugatuck Wine & Grape; Shack Sackler Foundation; Sontag Advisory LLC; Stamford Tent; Sun Hill Foundation; Verde Energy USA, Inc.; Vespa Restaurant; Wells Fargo Advisors; Westport Family Counseling; Westport Now; William J. Rosenbloom Charitable Trust; Xerox Foundation; WPKN; and WSHU Public Radio Group.