

ART NEW ENGLAND

CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

August 24, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm very pleased to submit this letter of reference on behalf Craig Berube-Gray.

I met Craig at an Art New England event in Portland, ME last spring and he's since become both a valued colleague and friend. Of the many conversations I was part of that evening, Craig's was the most memorable! I was struck by his interest in Art New England's new owners, our plans for its future and, in particular, how the publication would respond to the needs of artists and galleries moving forward. He gave me a lot to think about.

I thought of Craig shortly after that night when Art New England launched its Art Everywhere Project—an initiative that partners the publication with arts-related businesses in order to create alternative wall space. In short, we want to make more art available to more people and, subsequently, to spark artistic dialogue and, hopefully, increase sales. Art New England co-curated a sculpture garden at Boston's Copley Place Mall and I asked Craig to contribute several pieces. The playful, aquatic pieces he selected were perfect in this atrium setting, complete with pond and waterfall. Children play near the Rock Lobster and pat the Starfish and Sperm Whale.

His response to the invitation was eager and immediate—reflecting Craig's artistic state. He's hungry and wants to spread his proverbial wings. We speak frequently about upcoming shows, potential new spaces and I've enjoyed offering what insight and assistance I can. This has led to another invitation on behalf of Art Everywhere—a penthouse space that Art New England has transformed into a gallery and where an Art Salon series begins next month. This time we've asked for more adult-themed pieces and I look forward to the conversations they'll provoke.

I've learned a great deal from my meetings and conversations with Craig which have helped me steer Art New England in a more proactive direction. He's a passionate artist with much to convey and his energy inspires me to be a more impactful arts advocate. The publication has a responsibility to artists as both platform and forum. It was, after all, founded by a group of area artists in 1979 on a mission to foster a lively and critical discussion of the regional art scene. Artists like Craig hold us to our mission and we are a better publication as a result.

I support his grant candidacy with great enthusiasm.

Best regards,

Rita A. Fucillo
Associate Publisher