

MAINFRAME  
STUDIOS

2021 | VOL 2



CRITICAL MASS

UNDER

WAY

ART HAPPENS

# Here

Can't stop. Won't stop. With a keen vision and a healthy dose of perseverance Mainframe Studios is making sure the world knows that art happens here in Des Moines, and most definitely here at 900 Keo Way. Our renovations aren't even done yet and we already have 131 studios, and we're at 100% capacity, and our wait list continues to grow. **Artists build bridges that connect us to our community, that show us what we're made of, that weave pathways to possibilities.** We are demonstrating what can happen when we value our artists as much as we value our art museums, opera houses, arts festivals and sculpture parks. Des Moines has created a world class city. Mainframe is here to say it also has world class creatives. Completing renovations and achieving our financially self-sustaining business plan is within reach! We invite you to make history with us. The Lauridsen family recently pledged a \$1M matching gift, which essentially doubles the value of your contributions. Give now to ensure that artists have a place in the heart of our city for generations to come.

Double your dollars: [mainframestudios.org/donate](http://mainframestudios.org/donate)

Thank you,

Siobhan Spain, Executive Director  
[siobhan@mainframestudios.org](mailto:siobhan@mainframestudios.org)



MAINFRAME STUDIOS  
900 Keosauqua Way  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
[Mainframestudios.org](http://Mainframestudios.org)  
[@mainframearts](https://www.instagram.com/mainframearts)

MISSION  
A 501<sup>c</sup>3 nonprofit providing permanent affordable workspace for artists of all disciplines

VISION  
Transform Central Iowa's art scene by creating a financially self-sustaining economic and cultural driver, serving as a national model that stands the test of time

STAFF  
Siobhan Spain,  
Executive Director  
Sabrina Carper, Manager

VENUE  
The Tangerine Food Company  
[tangerine@mainframestudios.org](mailto:tangerine@mainframestudios.org)


The Studios design by:  
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Sponsored by: meredith  
Meredith Corporation  
Cover Art by:  
Molly Spain

# NEW SOUND

# INSTALLATION

Work has begun on an exciting, and unique, donor wall to be located in the atrium of Mainframe Studios. It will be a ten-channel sound installation consisting of ten speakers, custom electronics, custom lathe cut vinyl records, a record player, and a rotary telephone.

DC-area sound artist Alex Braden's approach is truly inspired by Mainframe Studios itself. By combining the voices of donors, and orchestrated sounds of studio work – this project is a communal, all-inclusive celebration of Mainframe's realization and all those who had a hand in making it happen.

Alex Braden is a sound artist, sculptor, and multi-instrumentalist residing in Washington, D.C. He received his B.F.A. in Sound Art & Independent Study, and went on to have fellowships from the Ballston BID (Virginia), Arlington (Virginia) Commission for the Arts, D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities, Rockland Residency Program (Seattle, Washington), and Vermont Studio Center. 

Alex Braden doing what Alex Braden does best.

## Adding your voice //

Let your voice be documented by participating in this exciting vocal time capsule. Increase the impact your Mainframe Studios donation has on the arts. Contact us to add your voice to Mainframe's forthcoming donor wall sound installation.

For donors above the \$100k breakpoint, custom pressings of the installation's records are being made. The original jacket art of each record will be designed by a Mainframe artist and sent as a thank you gift.



## LOWER LEVEL ARTISTS

#LL01  
**JAMES BEARDEN**  
Sculpture

#LL02  
**JJ GAFFERS**  
Hand Blown and Stained Glass Art

#LL03  
**JACOB SPAIN**  
Ceramics

#LL09 & #LL10  
**SOMETIMES FURNITURE**  
Woodworking

#LL11  
**RYAN TOPETE**  
Multimedia

#LL13  
**CHRIS VANCE**  
Painting

#LL14  
**CITY SOUNDS**  
Nonprofit



John Ravet  
studio #383

# REACHING critical mass

Reaching critical mass was a goal of Mainframe Studios founder Justin Mandelbaum because it tips the scales from an environment of surviving to an environment of thriving. He wanted to think big enough to generate a financially self-sustaining organization that spurs further growth in our region's creative economy. Justin's vision is not only becoming a reality inside our walls, but outside as well.

Being with Mainframe since its inception, artist Molly Spain aptly titled her mural, which will cover each inch of our building's

facade, *Critical Mass*.

The mural gives critical mass a visual representation through dark, fluctuating, totem-like columns

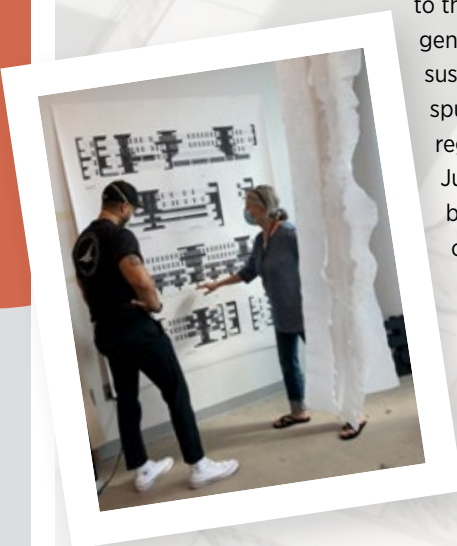
that portray the stacks of creative disciplines at Mainframe Studios where their interplay produces colorful and varying outcomes. When mapping out the building's elevations and studying its grid system, Molly started connecting its geometric block pile construction to her own art practice that works with elemental materials and references ancient structures to interpret the many ways humans have interacted with the planet.

Molly says the mural is a way to honor what Mainframe Studios stands for. **"There is vibrancy and endless possibilities when creative forces are at work,"** she shares.

"We bring thoughtfulness and an irreplaceable perspective to our communities. Enhancing and influencing our surroundings from a place of curiosity, discovery and the ability to manifest with little hesitation." 📍

**LEARN MORE** about Molly and her multidisciplinary practice:

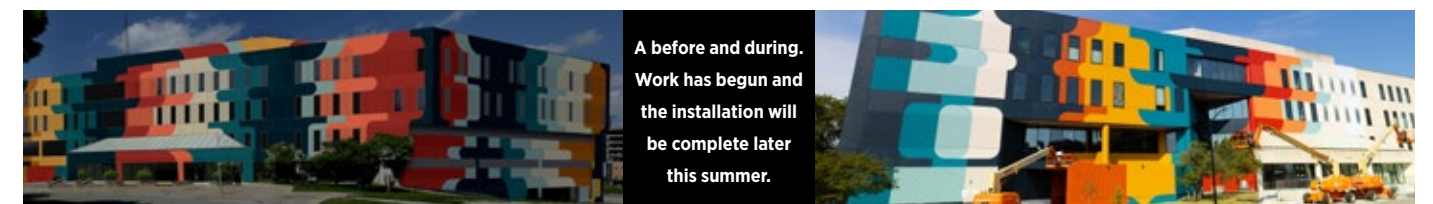
*In person:* Studio #451 // *Instagram:* @mollyspain // *Online:* mollyspain.com



Jordan Weber and Molly Spain discuss plans for her mural and Jordan's roof top art installation coming later this summer.



Critical Mass  
by Molly Spain  
in process by  
Heartland Finishes



A before and during. Work has begun and the installation will be complete later this summer.

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE:**

# PASTELS

BY THE BLOK DSM

*When were pastels invented?  
A. 16th century, B. 1925, or C. 1949*

**Trick Question!** These are all correct answers. *The earliest pastels were chalk based pigment sticks first developed in the 16th century and used by renaissance painters like Davinci and Michaelangelo.* These early pastels were made using gum arabic or animal glue as a binding agent and were only available in white, black, and red. Over time pigments expanded, and chalk pastels were primarily used for studies or small portraits. The medium went in and out of vogue in Europe.

*In 1925 Japanese company Sakura developed a high quality oil crayon using paraffin, stearic acid and coconut oil as a binder.*



They were geared towards children and intended to promote self expression for the youth. As the medium was meant for students it didn't take off with artists until Pablo Picasso learned of the material in the 1940's. Due to the war he was unable to procure them, and requested the French manufacturer Sennelier to recreate the oils for him. Sennelier created a professional grade oil pastel in 1949 that quickly became popular with artists in Europe.

Pastels have often been associated with amateur or student work, but are actually one of the easiest mediums to preserve over time. Unlike paint they will not crack, and remain vibrant for much longer. Pastels are a medium with a long and colorful history, and are used by students and professionals alike.

If you'd like to give pastels a try, visit The Blok DSM in studio #101 to pick up a set for yourself. 📍



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT TOOLS OF YOUR CREATIVE TRADE? VISIT THE BLOK DSM ART SUPPLY STORE IN #101. [THEBLOKDSM.COM](http://THEBLOKDSM.COM)



## FIRST FLOOR ARTISTS

**#100 MAINFRAME STUDIOS**  
Nonprofit Office

**#101 THE BLOK DSM**  
Fine Art Supplies

**#102, 104, 106 RUNDISM**  
Nonprofit / Youth Programming

**#103 & #109 COMMUNITY SUPPORT ADVOCATES**  
Nonprofit / Momentum Art Studio

**#108 LOVE LIFE COLLECTIVE**  
Dance Studio

**#111 & #112 KFMG 89.9 FM**  
Nonprofit / Radio Station

**#113 CIVIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION**  
Nonprofit

**#115 BLOQ BOI ENT.**  
Music Production

**#117 DES MOINES MUSIC COALITION**  
Nonprofit // Music Management & Promotion

**#120 THE RED DOOR PRESS**  
Letterpress Print Shop and Design Studio

**#123 THE BIG ROOM**  
Event Rental Venue

**#124 ALFELINO FELICIANO**  
Commercial Photography

**#126 JIM SPEVAK**  
Ceramics

**#131 THE TANGERINE FOOD CO.**  
Mainframe Exclusive Caterers



Diane Hayes  
studio #435

# 900 Views Podcast: Cameron Gray



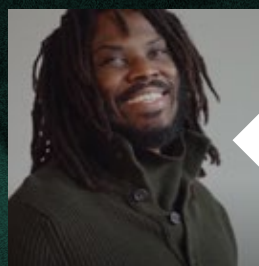
Cameron Gray is a Birmingham Native and the founder of the Buxton Initiative. A program aiming to 'center blackness at its core'. Gray began exploring themes of race while attending Auburn University for his BFA in printmaking, and later his MFA at Iowa State University. He recalls his first experience in Iowa, and his accompanying shock at the lack of diversity. He considered leaving but chose to stay stating, "The solution is not leaving the city to find a city that aligns with my social ideals, but to cultivate a community into what you believe it can be."

The Buxton Initiative is inspired by Buxton, IA. A historic Iowa community with a majority African-American population. Learning of Buxton inspired Gray to believe that this kind of space could exist again in Iowa. He began the Buxton Initiative to create opportunities for Black creatives to share their work and their stories.

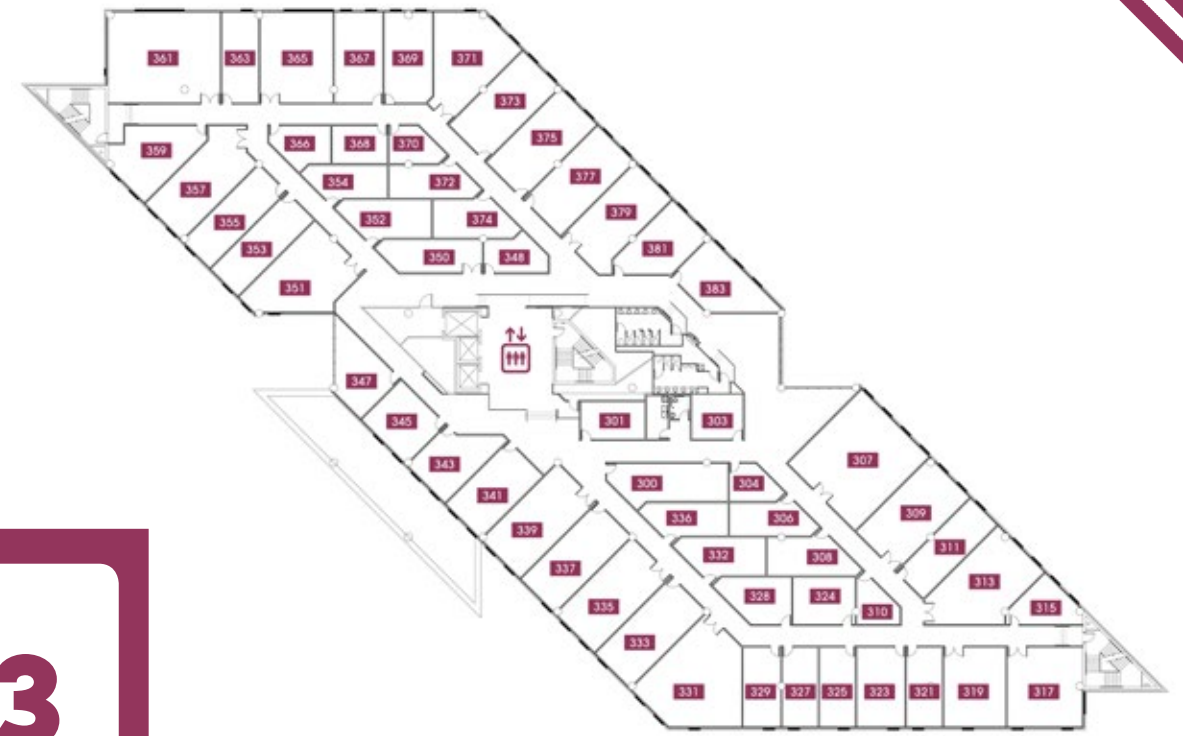
Gray describes Buxton not as a particular place, but as an idea, Buxton can be anywhere and *Gray aims to create community based spaces that explore the brilliance of black bodies, black people, and black experiences.*

He sees these spaces as giving room for Black creatives to explore their own diasporas, noting that 'all I can do is present my story and listen to yours, so I want to provide the space for others to present their stories and feel welcome. It's a space for us, for people to breathe, and finally feel seen and heard.' 📍

**Cameron Gray** is a fellow of the Iowa Creative Incubator at Mainframe Studios. You can find more of his work on Instagram @buxtoninitiative or @gam\_gogh.



Listen to the full 900 Views interview with Cameron online, wherever you find your podcasts.



## THIRD FLOOR ARTISTS

- #300**  
**PI 515**  
Educational Nonprofit
- #301**  
**RAYNA ART CO**  
Henna and Tattooing
- #303**  
**JON LEMONS**  
Photography
- #306**  
**LAURA WILKENS**  
Painting
- #304 & #307**  
**VALERIE CARR**  
Urban Couture Photography
- #308**  
**PAPER GARDEN WORKSHOP**  
Garden Design
- #309**  
**WARD CREATIVE STUDIOS**  
Photography
- #310**  
**JODY VALENTINE**  
Mixed Media
- #311**  
**PAIGE HOLZBAUER**  
ISU Dept of Art & Design Alumni Studio
- #313**  
**DESIGN FETISH BY DESHARA**  
Wreaths and Decor
- #315**  
**DYLAN HUEY**  
Huey Photography
- #317**  
**DESIGNED BY THE STREETS**  
Clothing Design
- #319**  
**MAGGIE GULLING**  
Photography
- #321**  
**JULIA FRANKLIN**  
Mixed Media
- #323**  
**BRITTANY BROOKE CROW**  
Photography
- #324**  
**PATRICK LEER**  
Painting
- #325**  
**CLAIRE SEDOVIC**  
Illustration
- #327**  
**MADDY FUSCO**  
Illustration
- #328**  
**ANDREW CLARRIDGE**  
Painting
- #329**  
**VOLK IMAGES LLC**  
Photography
- #331**  
**GOLD CREEK**  
Game Development
- #332**  
**NICK LAPOLE**  
Multimedia
- #333**  
**TITLE FIGHT**  
Graphic Design and Printing
- #335**  
**RIGHT RIGHT NOW NOW**  
Risograph Print Lab
- #336**  
**ALYSSA KILLIN**  
Mixed Media
- #337**  
**ONE DSM**  
Branding
- #339**  
**515 PRINTS**  
Printing and Graphic Design
- #341**  
**KIM GOLDBERG**  
Mixed Media
- #343**  
**INK AND OAK CALLIGRAPHY**  
Calligraphy and Hand-Lettering
- #345**  
**OWEN DESIGN**  
Graphic Design
- #347**  
**TIM HUGININ**  
Painting
- #348**  
**BRANDI POWELL**  
Illustration and Fiber Arts
- #350**  
**ALYSSA TAUBER**  
Printmaking
- #351**  
**LOVE LIFE COLLECTIVE**  
Dance Studio
- #352**  
**REBELINE**  
Leather
- #353**  
**MICHAEL WILSON**  
Painting
- #354**  
**SARAH ROSE STUDIO**  
Chalk Pastel and Painting
- #355**  
**JUSTIN NOSTROLA**  
Painting
- #357**  
**MARKAUS ASHWORTH**  
Musician, Entrepreneur
- #359 & #366**  
**FIRAT ERDİM**  
Artist
- #361**  
**DON STINSON**  
Painting
- #363**  
**BUFFALO BONKER**  
Painting
- #365**  
**RYAN DAMMAN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Photography
- #367**  
**JEFF KLISARES**  
Painting
- #368**  
**NATASHA PETROSOVA**  
Painting
- #369**  
**CAMERON SADEGHPOUR**  
Photography & Fine Handmade Knives
- #370**  
**ATELIER KARGOL**  
Fine Art
- #371**  
**SARA BOESEN**  
SJ Fine Art Conservation
- #372**  
**LAUREN PESTA**  
Mixed Media
- #373**  
**LEVI ROBB**  
Mixed Media
- #374**  
**MICKEY CARLSON**  
Painting
- #375**  
**AMENDA TATE**  
Interdisciplinary Artist
- #377**  
**LAURA NICHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Photography
- #379**  
**BEN SCHUH PAINTING**  
Murals
- #381**  
**JOSH SORELL**  
Painting
- #383**  
**JOHN RAVET**  
Fiber Art and Textiles

# ALEX BROWN FOUNDATION RESIDENCY BEGINS

The painter Alex Brown (1966-2019) began his career in New York and later lived and worked for two decades in his hometown of Des Moines until his untimely death from an aneurysm in January 2019.

An artist of international acclaim, Alex was known for work in several media that engaged the viewer with abstracted interpretations of everyday images and found photos. Reviewing one of his early shows, *The New York Times* described him as “an inventive young New York painter [who] combines photorealism and Vasarely-style abstraction.”

Alex’s talent didn’t stop on the canvas. He was also a leading member of the early hardcore punk scene in Iowa and then in New York, as a member of the New York bands Gorilla Biscuits, Side by Side, and Project X.

**Alex’s family has worked in partnership with Mainframe Studios to establish The Alex Brown Foundation at the end of 2019 with a mission of maintaining Alex’s artistic legacy, and providing support to the visual arts in Des Moines.**

The aim of the residency is to provide emerging and established artists of exceptional merit with an experience of the working conditions Alex found in Des Moines—the ability to make the work you want to make, free from the daily influence of being immersed in a major metropolitan scene, but without the isolation of a rural residency, in an exceptional studio environment and a relaxed and pleasant living environment. ☐

**2021 Fellows:**

- Vamba Bility *Arriving 6/6*
- Justin Sterling *Arriving 8/1*
- David Craig *Arriving 9/1*
- Emmy Thelander *Arriving 11/1*

**2022 Fellows:**

- Alina Perez & Arel Lisette Peckler *Arriving 3/1*
- Christopher Ho *Arriving 5/1*
- Suzanne Wright *Arriving 7/1*
- Catherine Rienhart *Arriving 9/1*

The man himself, Alex Brown. We miss you buddy.



## FOURTH FLOOR ARTISTS

**#400 YVETTE SUTTON**  
Mixed Media

**#401 MATTHEW CORONES**  
Painting, Mixed Media

**#402 PURPLE RAVEN**  
Jewelry

**#403 BRIAN MOSES, DANIEL CHRISTODOSS**  
Woodwork

**#404 STUART ARTS**  
Painting

**#405 HEARTLAND STUDIO**  
Painting

**#406 SAMMIE COCKERHAM**  
Painting

**#407 JESS QUINN**  
Botanic Oil Painting

**#408 JAY GRIFFITH**  
Painting

**#409 WES & JOAN YEOMAN**  
Multimedia Art and Design

**#411 MARISSA HERNANDEZ**  
Drake University's Dept of Art & Design Alumni Studio

**#413 SUE PENN DESIGNS**  
Painting, Fabric Design

**#417 WAVEFORM MUSIC**  
Recording Studio

**#419 EMILY MACFARLAND**  
Pottery

**#419 MARION NEHMER**  
Pottery

**#421 CAPITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Photography

**#423 BITTY BUTTONS**  
Children's Clothing

**#425 LAINEY BECK**  
Multimedia

**#427 SARAH NOLL WILSON**  
Leadership Lab

**#428 CHRISTINE LOGLI LEDO**  
Painting, Portraits

**#430 SHEENA THOMAS**  
Jewelry

**#431 MA ARCHITECTURE**  
Architecture

**#433 & 435 LINDA LEWIS**  
Clay narrative sculptures

**#435 DIANE HAYES**  
Clay sculptor

**#435 JUDY GOODWIN**  
Clay sculptor

**#437 JEN LAWLER DESIGNS**  
Jewelry

**#439 ISA MAISA**  
Designer, Clothing and Accessories

**#440 KZA LLC**  
Makeup as Art

**#442 GOOD FRIEND DESIGNS**  
Jewelry

**#443 KATIE GEARTY**  
Mixed Media, Jewelry

**#444 SAMANTHA GREEN**  
Upholstery

**#446 JEFF RIDER ART**  
Painting

**#445 & 447 GRETCHEN BOHLING DESIGNS**  
Clothing Design

**#448 FUECHE VANG**  
Painting, Illustrating

**#449 JAMI MILNE**  
Photography

**#451 MOLLY SPAIN**  
Mixed Media, Design

**#453 BRIAN DUFFY**  
Cartoons, Illustration

**#455 ALEX BROWN ESTATE RESIDENCY**  
Painting

**#456 BEAU KENYON**  
Composer

**#457 MICHELLE LOVELL**  
Photography

**#458 SABRINA CARPER**  
Mixed Media

**#459 MARGO Z NAHAS**  
Jewelry, Multimedia

**#460 VENNESSA SIRES**  
Painting

**#461 ADAM VAN WYK**  
Storyboard Artist

**#461 TYLER WALPOLE**  
Illustration

**#462 BEN SCHUH**  
Painting, Murals

**#464 PAIGE PETERSON PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Reveal Room

**#465 PAIGE PETERSON PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Photography

**#465 KELLY BROWN**  
KPC Pagent Coaching

**#467 JAY VIGON CREATIVE**  
Fine Art, Design

**#469 HOLLY HARTY**  
Painting

**#471 NUMINOUS GAMES**  
Game Development



# Book your next event at Mainframe Studios!

OUR CONTEMPORARY, WINDOW-LINED EVENT RENTAL SPACE IS LOCATED INSIDE THE REGION'S PREMIERE ART STUDIO BUILDING.

### INCREDIBLE CATERING

The Tangerine Food Company is the exclusive caterer for events at Mainframe Studios.

### FLEXIBLE SPACE

With a full wall of windows overlooking downtown Des Moines, our space can be transformed into the perfect backdrop for your wedding, corporate party, large-group meeting and more.

**EVENT BOOKING & CATERING:** 515-720-7510  
tangerine@mainframestudios.org  
Capacity // 250 seated; 400 reception-style  
Size // 4700sf flexible banquet room



## MAINFRAME STATS

ESTABLISHED IN  
**2012**

Total number of studios  
**131**

Over  
**30**  
creative disciplines represented

Already the **largest nonprofit creative workspace in the nation**

More to go! Phase 3 requires \$1.4M in funding to renovate 2nd floor and add our final 49 studios

*When complete, Mainframe Studios will be financially self-sustaining*



YOU'RE INVITED!  
**FIRST FRIDAY**  
— OPEN STUDIO EVENT —  
HAPPENING EVERY MONTH 5-8PM  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## Coming Soon

### CREATIVE CLASSIFIEDS

Brief text-only 280-character count  
arts related advertisements.

Send inquiries to [info@mainframestudios.org](mailto:info@mainframestudios.org).

900 Keosauqua Way Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
[mainframestudios.org](http://mainframestudios.org) // [@mainframearts](https://www.instagram.com/mainframearts)



**MAINFRAME**  
STUDIOS