

## **Tape Art Artists Michael Townsend and Colin Bliss on their Process**

Hi, we're the Tape Artists. For the last twenty years we have been using tape as a drawing tool to create social interactions through the transformation of the walls around us. Our work has run the gamut from outrageously large building-enveloping drawings to hundreds of intimate bedside drawings done in hospital rooms. Throughout, we have been dedicated to creating content through grand collaborations, fusing the voices of the community with the inherent stories of the surfaces and buildings we are working on.

From March 27 through April 2, we will be in residence at The Aldrich Museum. We are thrilled to debut a new model for bringing art from the Museum to homes in Ridgefield and then ultimately back to the Museum. The Aldrich Museum is organizing a week-long series of original Tape Art drawings to be created directly in homes throughout Ridgefield, with a home visit from the artists-in-residence.

Each of the participating Ridgefield families will bear witness to a piece of artwork being created in their homes. The drawings will be started and finished in less than three hours. Upon arriving at the home, we will set about our practice immediately—collecting clues, navigating conversations, and finding beautiful walls to draw on. The drawings will range from subtle reflections of the homes they are in to flights of fancy spurred on from our collective voices and impressions.

Mrs. Kagan, whose house in Ridgefield recently became our test site for this project, noted that it was really interesting to witness the traditionally private practice of making artwork occur within her own home. She commented as to how it felt as if she was visiting our studio. It was an interesting observation, because we are acutely aware that we were inside a private home making these drawings. So, in this case, both we and the Kagans felt that we were visiting each other's natural environments, in a respectful yet playful fashion.

- We determine the content of the tape drawing at each location, using the collective influences surrounding each wall.
- We make the drawing in a very short period of time, and then disappear.
- It is more than OK to talk with us while we are drawing.
- It is more than OK to take as many pictures as you want while we are drawing.
- The tape is a low-adhesive painter's tape, which is designed specifically to not tear paint off your walls. We have worked with this specific tape on thousands of surfaces and only on the rarest of occasions have we ever witnessed any paint coming off during the removal.
- All the tape drawings are temporary, and will make their way back to the Museum in the form of tape balls for a brief gallery exhibition, which will run from April 6 to April 10, 2010. At the end of the exhibition, the tape ball and a photo of the tape drawing will be returned to its respective family.
- We are generally a jolly bunch, and there will inevitably be a lot of laughing during our visit.

We look forward to meeting and working with twenty-five Ridgefield families, and appreciate you opening your homes to us.

For more information on Tape Art, and other projects we have developed over the years, please visit: [tapeart.com](http://tapeart.com).