



## HISTORY

The BAG Fund came into existence in the first place to support single-parent artists and exceptional high school artists by giving them residencies in the Brooklyn Artists Gym, which allows them studio space and the opportunity to show their work. This is especially hard for artists who already have significant financial burdens and time constraints, such as a parent. We reasoned that since being a single parent is one of the most difficult things in the world to do, being a single-parent artist must be even harder. Why not give these people a gift? We also wanted to help young artists be taken seriously in their endeavors in an ongoing way, not just having a show or getting a little prize.

We were also determined to make Brooklyn Artists Gym available to new artists just launching themselves into the field. The Internship Program, which started with BAG, has been incredibly successful, bringing in a bright array of artists into the studio and gallery. In exchange for about 10 hours a week of work, interns get all the privileges of being an Artist-in-Residence at Brooklyn Artists Gym. The Bag Fund sponsors these interns, making it possible to cover the administrative and studio costs.

Just as The BAG Fund was incorporating as a non-profit, one of our board members, Stuart Shedletsky, passed away. Stuart was an incredible and widely respected painter, who had taught at Parsons School of Design for over 30 years, and had had exhibitions all over the country. In 1993, he organized and curated a seminal show entitled “Still Working” that featured the work of artists who were getting along in years. Many of them were still creating beautiful and important work, but the art establishment had generally ignored their more recent work. Stuart’s show brought them some well-deserved attention.

When Stuart died, he left an important body of work. The issue for his family became, What do you do with a lifetime’s worth of work? This inspired us at The BAG Fund to take it on as part of our mission: To assist families with the body of work of a deceased artist by curating, cataloguing, storing, showing and renting or selling work. We intend to develop a library from which people and organizations can lease or buy works of art, to put on shows in the Brooklyn Artists Gym Gallery, and to create an online presence for these artists.

So The BAG Fund addresses what one person calls “the ecosystem” of being an artist, from the first serious discovery of talent, through the struggles that life offers all people including artists, to the meaningful preservation of an artist’s legacy. The BAG Fund is determined to grow and expand its programs, not only for the betterment of the artist, but the rest of us who benefit from what the artist has done.

Make more art, and keep it alive.