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OTIS FLOAT AT THE 4TH OF JULY WESTCHESTER PARADE

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JULY 16, 2015



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Otis College’s Creative Action class, “Whose Puppet? Multiculturalism, Puppetry, and the Parade” showcased designed floats and costumes at the Westchester Fourth of July Parade on Saturday, July 4th. For the second year in a row, Otis received the Chairman’s Choice Award for most innovative and creative float display.

The theme of this year’s parade was “American Beach Party.” Otis students and faculty Robin Murez decided to address issues of ocean pollution, spills, and climate change. This was close to the minds of the Otis community due to the recent oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara.

The class made puppets for members of the Otis community who would like to join – students, faculty, staff, and friends. Around 30 attendees showcased the puppets along with a giant hand and globe. 99% of all material was reused, recycled, or biodegradable materials. This year’s puppets included fish, birds, humans and a 16 foot papier mache mobile hand dangling a world puppet on a string.

“Puppets have been used as the mouthpiece and entertainment for people for centuries, saying things and conveying ideas people didn’t always feel comfortable expressing,” says instructor [Robin Murez](#).

One of the major benefits of the experience, says Murez, is that the course teaches students an interesting art form that is a combination of storytelling, performance, cultural history, collaboration, object-making, and music.

Otis Faculty: Robin Murez

Otis Mentor: Astrid Georges (BFA Digital Media ‘16)

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