



# Art History Came to Life

Students participated in a seminal work by Felix Gonzales-Torres by taking a piece of candy from *Untitled (The End)*.

One of the most exciting aspects of the trip for students was meeting working artists. Junior Corin Hoke said, "Being able to ask advice and hear their stories and how they broke into the art world was inspiring." Our first connection was with Jake Wittrock, a Truman painting alumni. He sells his own artwork while running a company that redesigns interior spaces. Because he

also hosted our trip at his Airbnb, students were able to ask him lots of questions about life in the arts. "It has made me realize that I have options after I graduate with my BFA in painting, because I got to meet an alum in my exact situation, who was succeeding," said junior Lisa Simms.

Later in the trip, students visited the personal studios of

two working professional artists, Louise LeBourgeois and Steve Carrelli. They talked about the journey that led them to a career as painters. Steve Carrelli spoke about his experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Italy and Louise LeBourgeois discussed her upcoming solo show in California. Senior Samantha Ormesher said, "I loved hearing how they got to where they are and learning

I saw what I could be doing after graduation and gained a lot of insight into how to create works and how to find galleries and network.

----- James Austin Dellamano

about programs that can help send me all over the world to connect with others and work on art. They were really encouraging."

In addition to meeting artists, students talked with gallery owners about how their side of the business works. They

met with contemporary spaces like Andrew Rafacz Gallery and non-profits like the Roman Susan Art Foundation. Dellamano found this helpful. He said, "I gained a lot of valuable information about what galleries look for when looking for new artists."



Although professional practices are taught in class, there is no substitute for first-hand experience.