

# Take 5 with Tim



Reporter Tim Brouk asks arts folks for the scoop on their latest projects.

## In the hot seat: Juan Obando

With a nod to Andy Warhol and an influence from Johnny Rotten, Juan Obando's thesis project for his Purdue University Master of Fine Arts degree pushes the limits of conventional art. His "Bazuco" project is promoted as an international art company with its roots in the artist's native Bogota, Colombia. With red, white and black political spoofs on President Barack Obama's "O" symbol and on the American flag, Obando's Bazuco idea is corralled in the show "Our Business Is None of Your Art." Consisting of banners, buttons, stickers, skateboard decks and projections, it will run Monday through April 24 at 514 Main St. in downtown Lafayette. Hours are 1 to 6 p.m. daily and a release party for the Bazuco book will be held at 6 p.m. April 24. The party will feature live performances from Dead Druglords and Purdue hip-hop artist MC Plus+.



By Brent Drinkut/Journal & Courier

**Purdue University student Juan Obando's "Our Business Is None of Your Art" show runs Monday through April 24 at 514 Main St.**

### 1 How did Bazuco get its start?

In Bogota, we started a radio show and podcast where we played and talked about music that we hated. It was huge. We were one of the first podcasts in Latin America (about five years ago). We had bands contacting us to get on the show because we were getting huge airplay and downloads around the world.

### 2 Why are you having your MFA show off campus?

I talked to Fabian Winkler, our teacher who is great and super supportive, and he said, "Why do you want to use the galleries (on campus)? Your stuff makes more sense in a commercial space and in an environment like downtown Lafayette." I was like, "That totally makes sense."

### 3 Why did you go for this mock-commercial angle with your show?

I go to other MFA shows and I really don't care about those people's lives. You read an artist's statement and it sounds so egocentric: my life, my feelings, my emotions, my cultural background. Why should people care? How can you involve people? How can you create criticism? If you put out the story of your life, it is difficult to create a critique.

### 4 How will people react to the imagery you use with Bazuco?

I'm interested in people's reactions, even if it's negatively to my work. I'd love that because it shows that its touching some strings. I don't want people to think my work is beautiful. If you want beautiful, go to an interior decorator and fill your house with kids' stuff and escapism from reality. I think art should be really, really toxic.

### 5 Who or what is Dead Druglords?

It is (fellow Colombian and Lafayette artist) Esteban Garcia and myself. ... Dead Druglords is a one-night event presenting a tropical mash-up DJ set, live performers and a visual, interactive show. The presentation embraces narcoaesthetics, a language heavily influenced by the imaginary of the Latin druglord of the '80s and '90s.

**On the Net:** [www.bazucobazuco.com](http://www.bazucobazuco.com)