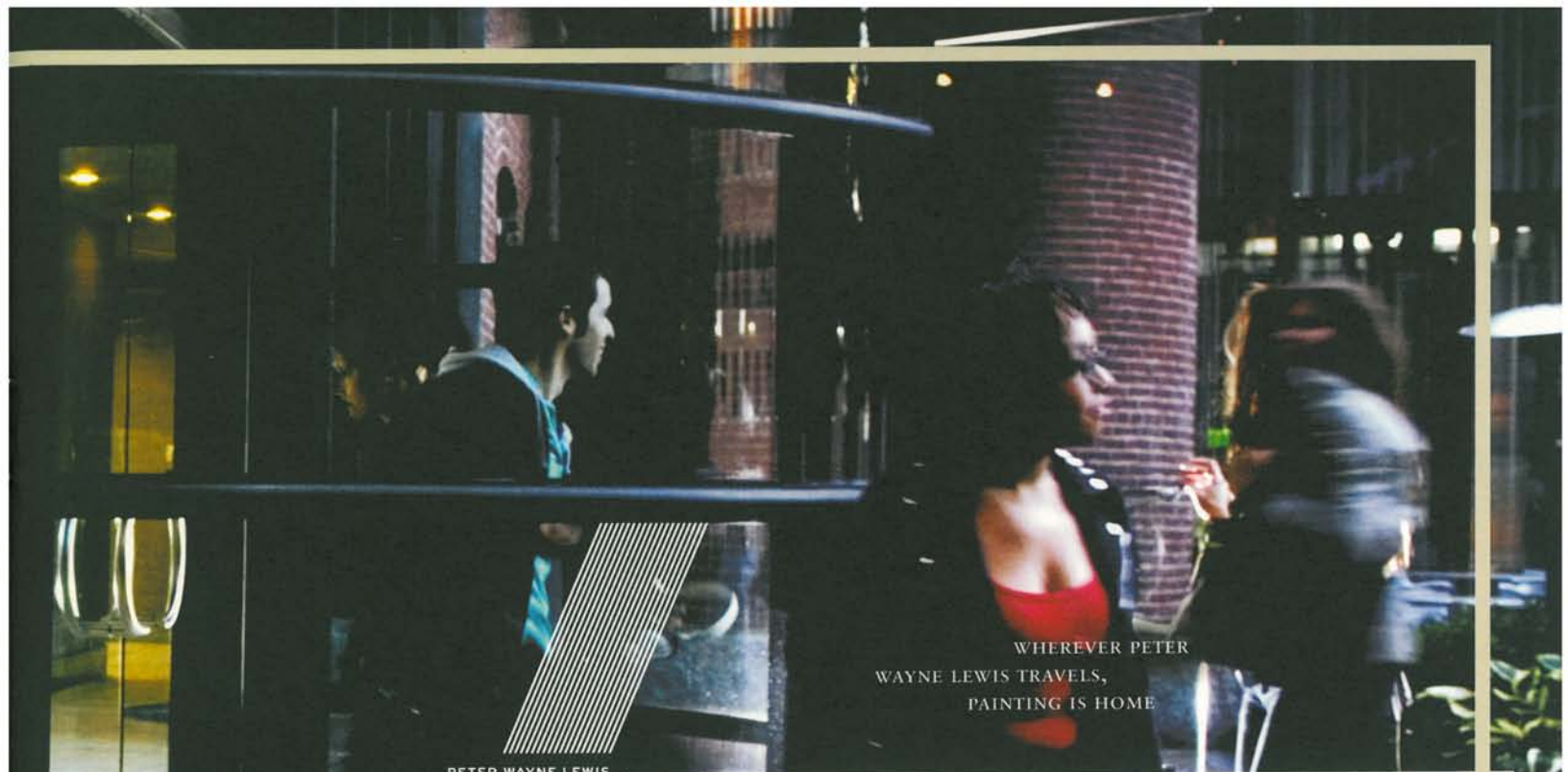


A man with glasses, wearing a black leather jacket over a black and white vertically striped shirt and blue jeans, is walking through a glass door at night. The scene is dimly lit, with some interior lights visible through the glass. The word "LOOP" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image, and the word "INFINITE" is positioned above the "P" of "LOOP".

INFINITE

LOOP



WHEREVER PETER
WAYNE LEWIS TRAVELS,
PAINTING IS HOME

PETER WAYNE LEWIS

Peter Wayne Lewis speaks in the clear, measured cadence of a born educator, pausing to point out photos of his Beijing studio on his office wall. Since Lewis was born in Kingston, Jamaica, it's surprising to discover no trace of the Caribbean island in his voice.

Lewis's black-framed glasses and orderly office seem in direct opposition to the energy palpable in his abstract paintings, which are collected and exhibited worldwide. The more time you spend with the professor and chair of fine arts 2D, the more you feel the soul of a beat poet humming beneath his academic mien.

Over the past four years, Lewis has merged his creative spirit with that of the community of international artists in Beijing. On his first visit the city's energy spoke to him. "While New York is dog-eat-dog, this community feels like family. It's quintessentially Chinese: more about the community than the individual," said Lewis.

That spirit—and a concurrently exploding contemporary art market—prompted Lewis to invest himself more deeply in Beijing. He built a 4,000-square-foot studio near 798 Art Zone, the city's contemporary hub, where he hosted students from one of MassArt's travel courses, became a partner in the Two Lines Gallery, exhibited during the 2008 Olympics, and was active in the Jamaican community.

Lewis's growing connections have allowed him to show the work of other artists from MassArt. In 2008 at the Two Lines Gallery he curated *Perfume Painting*, a solo exhibition of the work of Fred Liang, professor of fine arts 2D, and *Boston High Tea: Master Prints +*, an exhibition of prints created mostly by guest artists at MassArt. Lewis also brought the exhibit to the Sunshine International Art Museum, a village of four thousand artists in Songzhuang, Beijing. This exhibition includes the work of other MassArt faculty members, including Nona Hershey, Fred Liang, Roger Tibbets, John Thompson, Stuart Diamond, and Kofi Kayiga. "I'm trying to help MassArt establish studios in Beijing so students can work here," said Lewis.

The studio he built in 2007 at 318 International Art Camp allows him to create and ship his work worldwide inexpensively. It was there, washed in Beijing's gray light—and enveloped in what he calls the city's "wicked humidity"—that Lewis painted *Booster #8* for Olympic Fine Arts 2008. He was one of only a select number of artists asked to represent the United States in the exhibition. "The Olympic energy was amazing," said Lewis.

As Lewis's calling leads him around the world, his inner universe still revolves around the act of creation. Everything he does—from curating and directing to teaching and collaborating—has its origin in the paintings he makes, which nourish him. "My work is my balance," said Lewis. "Everything else flows out of that."