

Poet, Performer , Photographer and Sculptor

By Michelle R. McFarland

Vanessa German, a native of Homewood, Pennsylvania has a show on exhibit at The Wadsworth Atheneum entitled, "I Come To Do A Violence To The Lie". Her visit kicked off the first day of The Owl Enrichment Summer Exploration Program at the Mark Twain branch Library on Monday July 11, 2016.

As an introduction, Vanessa spoke with great pride and passion about her home in Homewood Pennsylvania. While using a Power Point presentation she spoke candidly about her life struggles and how creating art helped her to grow as an artist. During her visit, Vanessa shared with the audience how she collects objects and transforms them into her "Power Figures". They give her the strength to



encourage others to recognize their own power within. She encouraged the students in a respectful but simple way to love every aspect of themselves without apologizing.

Hartford and Homewood are similar in regards to demographics and the social ills that plague both communities. Despite this sobering truth both cities have a great appreciation of art and how it unites people.

Vanessa demonstrated the art of creating spoken word material. Several audience members participated and read their work to the group. Vanessa then responded by performing one of her spoken word pieces for the group. This was an incredible honor to have an artist of Vanessa's magnitude in Hartford.

You can see her work on display in the Matrix 174 at the Wadsworth Atheneum until September 4, 2016.