



Alex Brewer aka HENSE is coming to Norfolk on Saturday to finish his wall mural. | Submitted photo



hensemename in Miami working on a project with Apple in conjunction with the launch of the new store on Lincoln Road #APPLE #HENSExAPPLE #Miami image via @claireweiss @day19



Atlanta-based artist Alex Brewer, aka HENSE, has combined abstract art composition with his old-school graffiti style to create work

He's done projects this year in Australia, Taiwan and Germany. | Submitted photo

## International artist HENSE to finish wall mural in Norfolk

By: Denise Watson The Virginian-Pilot September 24, 2015



The Norfolk arts district's new contemporary art facility, the Glass Wheel Studio, won't open until November, but it is ready to make a mark now. The studio is bringing in Alex Brewer, aka HENSE, an internationally recognized painter, to create a mural for its three-story facade that faces Olney Road.

The studio is inviting the public to stop by Saturday to watch Brewer work and take part in a community art project. The event will include food trucks, local craft beers and music.

Cheryl White, director of the Glass Wheel, said the public will be in for a treat.



Atlanta-based artist Alex Brewer, aka HENSE, has combined abstract art composition with his old-school graffiti style to create works around the world. He's done projects this year in Australia, Taiwan and Germany. (Courtesy photo)

Brewer, who lives in Atlanta, started as a street artist. During the past two decades, he's combined abstract art composition with his old-school graffiti style to create award-winning pieces around the world. He's done projects this year in Australia, Taiwan and Germany.

White said Brewer has submitted renderings and color schemes for the Norfolk commission, but he won't settle on a vision until he arrives and studies the environment and light. His work, White said, will be an extraordinary complement to the renovated building, which dates to 1919.

The 8,500-square-foot interior will feature two rotating galleries where glass artists can display and sell their pieces.

### If you go

**What:** Free event at the Glass Wheel Studio. Watch artist Alex Brewer, aka HENSE, complete his mural. Includes food truck concessions, craft beers, music by DJ Lord Thomas.

**Where:** Glass Wheel Studio parking lot, 128 W. Olney Road,

"We are literally giving him a blank wall to work with," White said. "He has such a great pedigree. I'm just excited to be a part of it."

White said the idea for the mural came from a local artist whose husband worked as the architect for the Glass Wheel. White agreed when he said the building's front would be the perfect canvas for an explosion of color as it rises in the district's center. The area is just north of West Brambleton Avenue and is bordered by St. Paul's Boulevard to East 9th Street, and around to Yarmouth Street, anchored by the nearby Chrysler Museum of Art.

The Glass Wheel will be a vibrant landmark, White said.

The mural will be the latest addition in the district, which will be highlighted in the NEON Festival on Oct. 15 and 16.

Norfolk

**When:** Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday

**More info:** visit [www.glasswheelstudio.com](http://www.glasswheelstudio.com). RSVP at "[HENSE Mural Event](#)" on Facebook.



Last year, a 100-foot-long wall of Bob's Gun Shop on Granby received a paint job of brilliantly colored geometric shapes, reminiscent of dazzle camouflage used on battleships during World War I. A block away, in the Bress Pawn and Jewelry parking lot, a kaleidoscope of blues, pinks and yellows forms ships, submarines and sharks.

In the 100 block of W. Wilson Ave., artist Troy Summerell last week was sketching on the side of a building the outline of a school of fish.