## **ARTFORUM**

POSTED DECEMBER 20, 2016

## Activists Attacked Leaving New York's Artists Space

Nine activists who were leaving a Decolonize This Place event at New York's Artists Space on Saturday were attacked by a group of people of various ethnic backgrounds who claimed to be Donald Trump supporters.



Four or five men approached the activists as they were shouting slogans for vari-

ous issues supported by Decolonize This Place—an action-oriented movement that advocates for indigenous peoples, black liberation, the human rights of Palestinians, global wage workers, and de-gentrification—including "Free Palestine" and "Black Lives Matters." According to witnesses, the attackers collectively chanted, "Trump, Trump, Trump" and "Blue lives matter," and then proceeded to verbally and physically assault members of the activist group, calling them "faggots."

Among the victims of the attack were Colin Ashley, Michael Basillas, Caribou, Per Cruz, Connor Hicks, Petter Soeller, and Christian Velencia. Basillas told Hrag Vartanian of Hyperallergic that the men followed them and then "started swinging." He said, "We spent fifteen minutes trying to defuse [the situation]. They were adamant they were Trump supporters . . . and they made it clear where they stood."`