



**NEW  
ARK  
ARTS**

***A DEDICATION TO MEMORY***

**VOICES ON NEWARK ARTS  
& GUIDE TO THE 2018  
NEWARK ARTS FESTIVAL**

Newark Arts:  
*Dedication to Memory*  
Volume 1 | Fall 2018

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with the 2018 Newark  
Arts Festival

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**RODNEY MAURICE GILBERT**  
**JULY 27, 1967 - NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

## **A LETTER FROM JEREMY JOHNSON**

Friends,

Newark is a city of the arts. The festival that best captures the city's indomitable creative spirit is the Newark Arts Festival, produced by Newark Arts. For more than a decade, the Festival was known as the annual Open Doors Studio Tour. Now it has grown into the city's artistic calling card, a welcome celebration of all the arts, especially the visual arts scene which has long been a thriving part of the city's vitality.

This catalog is the first in recent memory to fully document this multi-day extravaganza. I hope you enjoy all the festival has to offer: an exciting array of gallery crawls, artist exhibitions, forums, studio tours, performances, mural excursions, screenings, children's events, and more.

I salute all the artists and creatives who have contributed to the festival's richness and diversity. Recognition must go to the partnering organizations and property owners who provided space to feature events and exhibitions.

Special thanks are due to our generous advertisers and lead sponsors, including the City of Newark and Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Prudential Financial, and M&T Bank.

Finally, thank you to the Newark Arts board, volunteers, consultants and staff, including outgoing Deputy Director Susan Shear, Festival Producer Kim Ford, and staffers Lauren Craig, Lauren Meehan, Sindy Sanchez, Ruby Annette Evans, Nikki Horwitz, Paul Dennison, and Mayuri Chandri.

Project for Empty Space, led by Rebecca Pauline Jampol and Jasmine Wahj, had a special hand in producing this handsome publication. I thank them immensely.

Now get out there to experience great art in a great city!



*Jeremy V. Johnson*  
Executive Director





## **MEET GENESIS TRAMAINE**

### **AN EMERGING ARTIST WHOSE WORK, NE-NE' REPRESENTS THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL**

When you talk about the future of Newark Arts, Genesis Tramaine is at the tip of everyone's lips. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Tramaine is a self-identified Black- Queer- Female- Bodied Urban Expressionist painter and Educator who arrived in Newark in 2014. Tramaine quickly made her mark in the Newark Arts community, exhibiting at Gallery Aferro, Newark's LGBTQ Center, and most recently, became an artist-in-residence at Paul Robeson Galleries in Express Newark.

Tramaine's work is a study of Black American faces, her brush strokes exaggerating facial features and capturing emotions through mediums including collage, acrylic and oil. Genesis' style is reminiscent of urban New York graffiti during the dawn of hip-hop and injected with hints of Sunday morning gospel. The original piece, *Ne-Ne'*, from her series entitled "God is TRANS", was chosen as the icon image for this year's Newark Arts Festival.

*"I am so excited that Ne-Ne' is representing the Newark Arts Festival in this way. NeNe is that daughter, sister, cousin that we all know." - GT*

Genesis earned her M.S from Pace University and B.S from Utica College of Syracuse University. Tramaine has exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at The Tree House, Governors Island, NYC, The Salt Space, Chelsea, NYC, The Raging Spoon Gallery, Toronto, Canada, AOF Gallery, NYC, and many others. She has spoken on panels at Harvard University and The New School in NYC. She has also been featured in Afro Punk, *Blavity*, *The Grio* and *Knack Magazine*.

*Image:* Detail, *Ne-Ne'*, 2018



RAS J. BARAKA  
MAYOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

October 3, 2018

Newark Arts  
17 Academy Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Friends of Newark Arts:

Welcome one and all to the 2018 Newark Arts – formerly “Open Doors” – Festival, a unique citywide showcase of the vibrancy of arts in the City of Newark. It features programs in every ward and for everyone, young and old, Latino and African-American, and is a beacon spotlighting Newark’s extraordinarily rich arts and cultural history. As I’ve said many times, two things will drive Newark forward – collaboration and art. Happily, this festival promotes both and highlights the City as a critical arts hub.

This year, you will see art that speaks to the social conditions, as in the return of Akintola Hanif’s HYCIDE IN FLUX issue and exhibition; UPRISE: A retrospective show by Serron Green (aka Xplore Freedom) in collaboration with Artfront Galleries; Kim Hawthorne of Oprah Winfrey Network’s “Greenleaf,” hosting the Dodge Poetry Festival’s “Poems In The Key Of Life,” Voices of the City at Essex County Donald M. Payne Sr. Technical High School, and “Amerika,” curated by Luisa Pinzon.

Sadly, this is the first year that this event takes place without Newark’s cultural ambassador, Rodney Maurice Gilbert. Newark’s renaissance as we know it wouldn’t have taken place in the same way without Rodney’s vision and passion.

We’re happy that vibrant arts, from visual arts, to theatre, spoken word, film and music will continue to rise and shine in Newark.

I hope that all attendees take in all of the hospitality that Newark has to offer, including parks, galleries, fine dining, live performance spaces, and murals.

Best wishes for an enjoyable festival!

Sincerely yours,

Ras J. Baraka  
Mayor



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# **NEWARK ARTS: A DEDICATION TO MEMORY**

This inaugural edition of the NAF Journal is an homage to the past, present, and future. Newark is in the throes of a major shift; one which has and will impact the the arts scene. With this in mind, we felt that it was important to trace the trajectory of the visual arts scenes over the past 40+ years. We want to acknowledge those who have come before us and created spaces, places, and opportunities- the legacy of their labor will live on. Understanding the past, is as important as living in the present, and looking towards the future. We hope that this publication, in its infinitesimal way, provides you with a meaningful glimpse of the complex wonderful arts city that is Newark, NJ.

- Rebecca Pauline Jampol + Jasmine Wahi (Directors, Project for Empty Space)

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*Cover image:* Adebunmi Gbadebo, *In Between*, human hair sewn to chicken wire, hair rinse, canvas, 2017  
Someone once told me after looking at my work, "Your art is our people." It was a simple statement, but very profound to hear. For the last 3 years I dedicated my myself to only using black human hair as my medium. I go to local barbershops, people's homes, and random businesses in Newark to collect hair that someone had recently cut from their head. So not only does my material come from the community, my material is the people in the community. -Adebunmi Gbadebo (Continue on pg. 61)



# NEWARK ARTS FESTIVAL

## 2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Newark Arts Festival celebrates the rich diversity of the city's expanding arts scene and welcomes the world to experience an exciting array of artist exhibitions, forums, studio tours, performances, mural excursions, screenings, children's events and more. This year's Festival has one of the most robust schedules to date, which will take place Thursday, October 4th - Sunday, October 7th. Visit [Newarkartsfestival.com](http://Newarkartsfestival.com) for a day-to-day guide to the NAF exhibitions and happenings.

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### NEIGHBORHOODS OF FOCUS & SCHEDULE LEGEND

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH: HALSEY ST. NORTH

(bordered by Washington Park; Academy Street; University Avenue; Broad Street)

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH: MARKET ST. UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT

Market Street (bordered by Essex County College; Mulberry Street; Branford Street; Academy Street) University Heights/Fairmount (bordered by Clifton/Norfolk; 7th Avenue; Springfield; Dr. MLK Blvd)

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH: HALSEY ST. SOUTH/LINCOLN PARK

(bordered by Branford Street; Lincoln Park; University Avenue; Broad Street)/Lincoln Park

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH: GATEWAY/IRONBOUND

(bordered by Military Park; Mulberry Street; Raymond Blvd; Ferry Street; Newark Riverfront Park; Waydell Street; Rome Street; Jabez Street; Broad Street)



NAF SPONSORED EVENTS



OPEN DOORS KIDS

## ▷ OPENING NIGHT NAF EVENTS

### OPENING DAY GUIDED VIP PREVIEW TOUR **HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

Hosted by Newark Arts & Co-Hosted by *Have You Met Newark*

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 6PM

By Invitation | For Inquiries: 973-643-1625

For Media: Lauren.Craig@NewarkArts.org

For Collectors & Buyers: Nikki@NewarkArts.org

A curated walkable tour of the opening night exhibitions in the Halsey North corridor includes the Newark Public Library, the Newark Museum, Halsey Street Pop Ups and Express Newark. All preview tour guests will be admitted to Mayor's Reception.

Special guided preview excursions by request to Gallery Aferro, Index Art Center, City Without Walls, Artfront Galleries, and the Fairmount Art Wall. \*Requests must be arranged in advance. Sponsored by City of Newark, M&T Bank, Prudential Financial, Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey Department of State Division of Travel and Tourism, Newark Happening.

### NEWARK ARTS FESTIVAL

#### 2018 MAYOR'S RECEPTION **HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

Hahne & Co., 625 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 9PM

By Invitation | For inquiries: 973-643-1625

RSVP Essential: nikki@newarkarts.org

NEWARK ARTS, THE CITY OF NEWARK and L+M DEVELOPMENT invite you to the opening night reception hosted by Mayor Ras J. Baraka. Features DJ MD, NEWARK.FM's FORSA RADIO and appetizers by Sean Hassan, RHYTHM N FOOD. Co-sponsored by M&T Bank, Prudential Financial, Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey Department of State Division of Travel and Tourism.

### L&M DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS

#### A PLACE FOR THE ARTS **HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

Hahne & Co., 625 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 5PM - 10PM

The historic 100+ years old Hahne & Co. department store was restored to its former glory by L+M Development as *A Place For The Arts* in downtown, Newark, NJ. This gem is the focal point for various spotlights and happenings at Newark Arts Festival 2018.

#### On view at Hahne & Co.

- *Nice/Nasty and Everything* in between curated by Armisey Smith

- *Richard Beavers Pop Up Gallery* curated by Richard Beavers

- *The Art of Wilfred Sessoms* at Barnes & Noble at RU-Newark

- Express Newark including Paul Robeson Galleries,

Shine Portrait Studios, Newark Print Shop and more.

### NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS

#### **HYCIDE IN FLUX PRODUCED BY AKINTOLA HANIF** **HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

Launch Pad, Suite 240, 625 Broad St, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 8PM - 11PM

RSVP Essential: newarkartsfestival.com

Music by Asen James | Special performance TBA

Hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments will be served

*HYCIDE IN FLUX* issue and exhibition include images that trace Akintola Hanif's evolution as an artist. Photos span the breadth of his two-decade career, from his documentation of marginalized groups — such as gang members and the homeless — to his many portraits revealing the beauty and complexity of Black style and culture.

*HYCIDE IN FLUX* also features stories and images by other artists focusing on spiritual, political and creative transformations and turning points. A photo essay titled *The 5 Wards* explores the city during Newark's 350th anniversary in 2016, a time when the media narrative shifted from a focus on crime to redevelopment and signs of gentrification. [www.hycide.com](http://www.hycide.com) Co-sponsored by M&T Bank, Prudential Financial, Unique Photo and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

## ▷ EXHIBITIONS & HAPPENINGS (A - Z)

### ANKER WEST CERAMICS AND ARCHITECTURE **GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

The Dietze Building: 60 - 64 Union Street, Newark, NJ 07105

Thursday, October 4th, 4PM - 6PM

Anker West Ceramics and Architecture presents an open house at the historic Dietze building. [www.ankerwest.com](http://www.ankerwest.com)

### ARTFRONT GALLERIES **CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

The mission of Artfront Galleries is to promote temporary, not for profit art galleries that serve as a transformative social and educational tool in urban environments. Artfront Galleries has organized seven pop up exhibitions for the 2018 Newark Arts Festival.

#### (1) Artfront Galleries with the support of Newark Arts

present **UPRISE: A Retrospective** **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT** ✨

1 Wellington Way, Newark, NJ 07103

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 9PM: On view

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM, 9PM - 1AM: Spotlight Celebration

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 6PM

SPINNING LIVE by DJ Kortez

*UPRISE: A Retrospective* is a solo show by Serron Green (aka Xplore Freedom) in collaboration with Artfront Galleries. It has been a year of ebbs and flows for artist Serron Green. In this past year he has seen in himself much growth as an artist, but more importantly, as a man. His extensive international travels coupled with a myriad of happenings in the United States, have all had a great influence on Serron's work.

*UPRISE* is a culmination of years of studying, learning, and combining these elements.

#### (2) Artfront Galleries with the support of Newark Arts present

**OUT LOUD: LGBTQ Identity in Urban America**

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT** ✨

2 Wellington Way, Newark, NJ 07103

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 9PM

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM; special entertainment 9PM - 1AM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 6PM

An exhibition curated by Rafael Cuello presents the work of artists in a variety of media focusing on issues of social justice, gay liberation, and the multiracial aspects of the LGBTQ experience.

#### (3) Artfront Galleries: **Dishabille** **CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

One Bloomfield Place, Newark, NJ 07104

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 6PM

An exhibition exploring both the male and female form.

Includes work by several local artists in a variety of media.

#### (4) Artfront Galleries: **Urban Reflections** **CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

The Clubhouse: 205 Spruce Street, Newark, NJ 07108

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 8PM



Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 3PM

A photography exhibition with work by a selection of local photographers reflecting on life in Newark.

**(5) Artfront Galleries: Urban Abstractions CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

The Waterfront: 2 Grafton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 3PM

An exhibition of abstract works by local artists in a variety of media reflecting the vibrancy of the urban experience.

**(6) Artfront Galleries: Urban Meld CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

TREC: 55 Ludlow Street, Newark, NJ 07114

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 3PM

A mixed media exhibition of local artists which expresses the melding of the diverse cultures that are the fabric of Newark.

**(7) Artfront Galleries: Chromadonna HALSEY ST. NORTH**

The Artisan Collective: 25 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 6PM

An exhibition that pays homage to royal adornment by bringing elaborate wearable art to life.

**ART & ARTIFACTS OF NEWARK MARKET ST.**

233 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM

Art & Artifacts of Newark features artist Armisey Smith and her current work called *Layers*.

**ART & ARTIFACTS OF NEWARK UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT.**

270 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Sunday, October 7th, 5PM - 8PM

Closing Reception of *Queen of Angels. V.3.0.*

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS**

**SPACES THAT MAKE PLACES: HALSEY ST. NORTH ✨**

**[DIS]PLACEMENT OF ARTS SPACES IN A CITY TRANSFORMING**

A discussion moderated by Taneshia Nash Laird

In partnership with Express Newark, Paul Robeson Galleries

54 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 11AM - 1PM

RSVP Essential by October 3rd: [newarkartsfestival.com](http://newarkartsfestival.com)

In 2017, our first *A Conversation With* presented the idea of art meeting technology to create social impact. For the 2nd year, Newark Arts will curate and present a hot button panel discussion around issues important and relevant to working artists today in the City of Newark and surrounding metropolitan areas. The moderated conversation will contour the issue of where the arts spaces have gone during Newark's most recent renaissance era, development boom, rising tech industry and rapid population growth which will soon follow. A continuation in the series of more than 20 community conversations that were conducted during the creation of Newark Creates, a citywide cultural plan. Reception to follow in Genesis Tramaine's studio.

**ART & PROZAK HALSEY ST. NORTH**

571 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th: 5PM - 10PM: Opening Night

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 10PM

Saturday, October 6th, 1PM - 4PM and 7PM - 10PM

Sunday, October 7th, 1PM - 5PM

*Art & Prozak* is an ongoing series of collaborative projects produced by Joey Palestina and Steve Kelly. *A&P* is a traveling odd and engaging artistic madhouse, supporting the work of a local collective of fine artists, writers, musicians, comedians, and more. Palestina and Kelly will host a series of happenings for this year's Festival that include the work of Steve Kelly, Joey Palestina, Sean Coates, Gregory Gramm, Ugly, Nick Gaeta, Goodfood, Smock, Brain Orchestra, more artists TBA.

**BARAT FOUNDATION CREATION NATION GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**



One Gateway Center, 11-43 Raymond Plaza West, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 11AM - 1PM

Brunch with the Animodules™, Newark's Official Peace Ambassadors.

[www.baratfoundation.org](http://www.baratfoundation.org)

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS BLACK HISTORY PORTRAITS**

**BARNES & NOBLE, RUTGERS - NEWARK HALSEY ST. NORTH ✨**

42 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 3PM - 9PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 6PM

Saturday, October 6th, 3PM - 6PM

*Black History Portraits* by Wilfred A. Sessoms Sr. features a series of paintings of prominent African American men and women that have been instrumental in the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS BRICK CITY COLLECTIVE**

**BARNES & NOBLE, RUTGERS - NEWARK HALSEY ST. NORTH ✨**

42 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 5PM - 8PM

Brick City Collective presents an evening of performance and conversation on leading political activists and writers in the City of Newark. BCC's core values include unity, community, and awareness where subjects such as artists of color, feminism, queerness, motherhood, gentrification, poverty, immigration law, multilingualism, police brutality, global perspectives, and civic participation are often the center points of discussion.

**BRICK CITY COMEDY REVUE MARKET ST.**

Mercato Tomato Pie, 212 Market Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 2018, 7PM - 9PM

Justin Williams (Newark: The Comedy, Sirius XM) records his second stand-up comedy album live.

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS BROWN GIRLS BAR CRAWL MARKET ST ✨**

Various, Market Street; Finale The Ainsworth

Crawl Itinerary TBA. Check Digital Listings.

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 11PM (Finale 8PM - 11PM)

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/2xl0cyU>

Parade down Market Street's "Restaurant Row" with Brown Girls Bar Crawl and experience Visual Arts, Poetry and Comedy during their Fourth Annual art crawl. Join this guided experience - part gallery crawl, part bar crawl - on Friday, October 5th. You'll stop at some amazing exhibits and restaurants as you crawl through Downtown Newark, recently named the 9th most vibrant arts city in the nation.

**CENTERS OF HOPE**



Centers of Hope are community based centers that allow access to City services, wellness and enrichment opportunities where people live and work. The Centers will offer a variety of athletic, arts & culture, educational, environmental, healthy living and recreation programming to engage and empower the community. Come join the NAER and City of Newark for Open Doors Kids at the Vince Lombardi Center of Hope. Participate in arts activities and learn what programming the Centers of Hope provide! Appropriate for ages 5 - 13. All are welcome!

### (1) THE VINCE LOMBARDI CENTER CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS

201 Bloomfield Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

Come rock out with Newark's youth during an energetic hip hop dance class at the Lombardi Center.



### (2) THE HAYES PARK WEST RECREATION CENTER CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS

179 Boyd Street, Newark, NJ 07108

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

The Hayes Park West team invites you to participate in a series of hands on activities. Create a fun textile, enjoy a sewing session or participate in the drama workshop.



### CoAD GALLERY PRESENTS LIGHT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT

College of Architecture and Design - NJIT

377 MLK Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 5:30PM - 9PM: Opening Reception

*Light* is a multi-disciplinary exhibition featuring artists and designers who incorporate natural and/or artificial light into their projects and artwork in unique and masterful ways. The individuals selected for this exhibition currently work in the fields of architecture, industrial design, engineering, photography, fine arts and digital design. While only one or two projects from each individual will be featured in the exhibition, their careers have been distinguished by a common desire to explore natural or artificial light as one of the primary driving forces behind their work.

Participating artists include: Santiago Calatrava, James Clar, Alex Czetwertynski, Jessica Dalrymple, estudio.entresitio, Alexandra Pacula, Eric Pare, Boris Petropavlovsky, Isamu Noguchi, Raisa Nosova, Stephen Scheer and Tod Williams - Billie Tsien Architects | Partners.

### DODGE POETRY PRESENTS POEMS IN THE KEY OF LIFE

STARRING KIM HAWTHORNE, OWN'S GREENLEAF MARKET ST. ✨

Project for Empty Space

2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 8PM - 11PM

For the fifth time, the largest poetry event in North America comes to New Jersey's largest city. The Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival returns to Newark from Thursday, October 18th through Sunday, October 21st, 2018. *Poems In The Key of Life* is a taste of what's to come, featuring a special set by Kim Hawthorne, star of OWN's *Greenleaf* and the funny, surprising, raucous, heartbreaking, inspiring, infuriating and joyous poetry of Cortney Lamar Charleston, Ellen Hagan, Tomás Morín and Mia X. [www.dodgepoetry.org](http://www.dodgepoetry.org)

### FEMME CURATOR ARTS

(1) FEMME CURATOR ARTS AND EVOLUCULTURE

PRESENTS THE WOMB HALSEY ST. NORTH ✨

256 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 5PM - 7:50PM: Reception

8PM - 12AM: Performances

Friday, October 5th, 5PM - 7PM: Opening Reception

Saturday, October 6th, 8PM - 12AM: Performance Showcase

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 6PM: Closing Reception and Brunch  
Femme Curator Arts and EvoluCulture present *THE WOMB*, curated by Kween Moore, featuring artists Kween Moore, Danielle Scott and Regine Jean Louis. Defined as "the organ in the lower body of a woman or female mammal where offspring are conceived and in which they gestate before birth," the womb has remained a go to symbol of creation and life in various mediums. It has also been learned, unlearned, and relearned in its relationship with femininity. All art displayed in this collection will be a testimony of birth (or rebirth), life, and creation. In conjunction with the exhibition, EvoluCulture will celebrate its 4th anniversary, with a lineup of poets, singers, emcees, and dancers for each day in the weekend.

### (2) IMPRINT AT INK JUNKIES

Ink Junkies, 9 Warren Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Curated By Kween Moore, Danielle Scott,

Regine Jean Louis and Brian Robinson

Friday October 5th, 5PM - 7:50PM Reception and Open Mic

Saturday, October 6th, 5PM - 7:50PM Reception and Open Mic

FREE, Open To Public (Suggested Donation, \$5)

Femme Curator Arts, EvoluCulture and Ink Junkies presents a two-day program, *IMPRIN*, focusing on how various forms of art, both ink and paint, can leave a lasting impression in both body and spirit.

### NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS

fem'n'3d / MY VAGINA GOT ME FCK'D UP / LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH ✨

Teacher's Village: 42 William Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 5PM - 9PM

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 9PM

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM

Official Media Partner Urban Girl, RSVP: [ericka@daupeaire.com](mailto:ericka@daupeaire.com)

*/ MY VAGINA GOT ME FCK'D UP /* A celebration of women through an unapologetic lens highlighting sexuality and sensuality.

*/ FEM'N'3D /* A thematic art series that utilizes unconventional spaces to personify the inner dialogue of the modern day woman.

### GALLERY AFERRO MARKET ST.

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 7PM - 10PM: Opening Reception

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 6PM: Open to the Public

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM: Open to the Public

**First Floor:** *Portraits of People We Love* Curated by Sarah McCann

*Portraits of People We Love* is an exhibition that invited artists to create and submit work that depicts a person or persons each artist loves. This love may be platonic, familial, romantic; someone they only know in passing, but are overjoyed exists in the world; someone they have never met, but appreciate in the deepest, most meaningful way; or any and all other forms of love. Participating artists include: Colin Campbell, Schroeder Cherry, Nicoletta Darita De La Brown, Aiden Dillard, Gladys Barker Grauer, Tiffany Jones, Ken Krafchek, Jo-El Lopez, dominic t. moulde, Paula Phillips, Kern Samuel, Christine Stiver, Genesis Tramaine, Malik Whitaker and Layqa Nuna Yawar.

**Eleta J. Caldwell and Rodney M. Gilbert Memorial Gallery:**

*So What*, Curated by Jo-El Lopez

Participating artists include: Anonda Bell, Michael Endy, Asha Ganpat, France Garrido, Steve Green, Geri Hahn, Red the Philosopher, Jillian M. Rock and Bleriot Mendel Thompson.

**Elevator:** *Elevator Music 5: Mun Lun Kir Sa* curated by Juno Zago.

[www.ferro.org](http://www.ferro.org)

### GLASSROOTS, INC. HALSEY ST. NORTH

10 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 4PM - 8PM

GlassRoots will host two artmaking opportunities for visitors: A bead making marathon, where visitors can create a glass bead to contribute to an art installation that will be displayed in our new location, and a mosaic making collaboration. [www.glassroots.org](http://www.glassroots.org)

### GRAMMY MUSEUM EXPERIENCE PRUDENTIAL CENTER MARKET ST.

165 Mulberry Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 11AM - 6PM: Open to the Public

Friday, October 5th, 11AM - 6PM: Open to the Public

Saturday, October 6th, 11AM - 6PM: Open to the Public

Sunday, October 7th, 11AM - 6PM: Open to the Public

GRAMMY Museum Experience Prudential Center will offer 50% off the



price of a regular admission ticket to any patron mentioning "Newark Arts Festival" during the duration of the festival October 4th to October 7th [www.grammymuseumexp.org](http://www.grammymuseumexp.org)

#### **I'M SO NEWARK** **HALSEY ST. NORTH**

Express Newark Lecture Hall  
54 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102  
Saturday, October 6th, 2PM - 4PM  
Newark Short Film Awards presents a screening of *The Mayor of Art* (*Who is Rodney Gilbert*), several films by Jennifer Wager and documentary: *What Renaissance?* [www.ImSoNewark.com](http://www.ImSoNewark.com)

#### **INDEX ART CENTER** **MARKET ST.**

233 - 237 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102  
Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 10PM: Open to the Public  
Saturday, October 6th, 7PM - 11PM: Opening Reception  
**1st Floor Main Space:** *Intersection 2018* features works by Jerry Gant, Katrina Bello, Akintola Hanif, Stephen Mckenzie, Kevin Merkel, William Oliwa, German Pitre, Kati Vilim, Robert Shoup, Diana Palermo, Colin Shields, Patricia Dahlman, Kevin Durkin, Jeff Koroski, Colleen Gutwein, Lowell Craig, Jillian Keats, Peter Dougherty, Heidi Lorenz Wettach, Jamie Bruno, and Joseph O'Neal.  
**1st Floor A&AN (Annex):** Armisey Smith, *Layers*  
**2nd Floor Main Space:** Colleen Gutwein, *Newark Artists Photo Documentary Project: we are the ghosts of our future*  
**2nd Floor Side Gallery:** Fern and Fossil Pop Up Shop  
[www.indexartcenter.org](http://www.indexartcenter.org)

#### **IAC AT 27 MIX** **HALSEY ST. NORTH**

27 Halsey St. Newark, NJ 07102  
On view during restaurant hours.  
Works by Serron Green (Xplore Freedom), organized by Index Art Center.

#### **6TH IRONBOUND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL** **GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

Shimon Gallery: 113 Monroe St. Newark, NJ 07105  
Sunday, October 7th, 2PM - 8PM  
*Immigrants - Memories And Dreams* includes 50+ student artists from the East ward that share their individual immigrant experience. This event will serve as a closing reception for the Festival.

#### **JAY GOLDING SURMA** **HALSEY ST. NORTH**

Burger Walla: 47 Halsey St, Newark, NJ 07102  
Friday, October 5th, 7PM - 10PM  
*Surma* is an exhibition of new works by painter, Jay Golding. *Surma* highlights a sub-group of tribes from the Omo Valley in Southwest Ethiopia. Accompanying the event will be live beats by Mitch from Marketing and clothing provided by ngś.

#### **THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY** **CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

145 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104  
Thursday, October 4th, 6:30PM - 8:30PM:  
An artist talk with musical accompaniment.  
Sunday, October 7th, 2PM - 4PM: *Orange Socks Collective*  
Dance performance and participatory activity for children and adults. The Orange Socks Collective brings together the diverse creativity of Dalia Shusterman, Mirele Rosenberger (a.k.a. musician extraordinaire) (a.k.a. Chassidic lady drummer), Yitzchok Mouilly (a.k.a. Pop Art Rabbi) and Yaakov Jaffe (a.k.a. dancing legend). Participants will be invited to don a pair of old shoes or sneakers and dance on a large canvas to the accompaniment of Israeli folk and klezmer music.

*Yitzchok Mouilly: The Pop Art Rabbi:* Rabbi/Artist Yitzchok Mouilly creates distinctive pieces of contemporary Jewish art that combine the bright, bold

colors prevalent in pop art with the timeless and sophisticated images of Judaica and the Jewish people. His aim is to evoke themes from Torah and the Kabbalah, making them relevant to a modern generation. Mouilly utilizes the strong contrast of stark, silkscreen images with free-flowing, liquid paint to highlight his interpretation of the spiritual reaction to our actions. Known for his bright, expressive Jewish pop art, Mouilly's recent journey into technology of Augmented Reality takes his work to a whole new level. His current focus is to illustrate the hidden energy behind our actions. The current exhibition presents an overview of his work, which has evolved over the last decade. [www.jewishmuseumnj.org](http://www.jewishmuseumnj.org)

#### **NEWARK ARTS PRESENT LINCOLN PARK MUSIC SPEAKS'** **THE KHALIL JIBRAN EXPERIENCE** **MARKET ST.** ✨

Live Album Recording & Performance  
Express Newark CMC Soundstage  
54 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102  
Saturday, October 6th, 8:30PM - 12AM (Show Taping: 10:15PM)  
RSVP Essential: [newarkartsfestival.com](http://newarkartsfestival.com)  
*The Khalil Jibran Experience* is a dynamic audio/visual live performance by the God MC, showcasing his lyrical prowess, attention-demanding stage presence, electrifying energy, along with the heart to heart intimate connection with the crowd. The intent of this exhibition is to bring the audience into the mind of Jibran along his epic journey. The twists & the turns; the peaks & the valleys; the light & the dark, uniting polarity & fulfilling the goal of transcending the self aka self actualization. This will be a production, an exquisite one. There will be live musicians, poetry, choreographed dancers, stage design, smoke/fog machines, lighting, along with a plethora of other special fx to enhance this one of a kind Experience. One you will never forget...STADIUM STATUS.

#### **NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS**

##### **KICKIN' IT WITH THE KING** **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT** ✨

Revival Temple: 81 16th Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103  
Sunday, October 7th: Doors 5:30PM, PERFORMANCES 6PM+  
RSVP Essential: 973-819-6077  
Newark Arts Festival launches out to the West Side and Fairmount Heights neighborhoods with *Kickin' It With the King*. This free gospel and arts event will include a mass choir tribute to the late Edwin and Walter Hawkins, Grammy Award winners for *Oh Happy Day* (1969) in the category of *Best Soul Gospel Performance*. Revival Temple is the historic recording site of numerous gospel albums by Rev. Jeff Banks and the Revival Temple Mass Choir, produced by Savoy Record, where Milton Biggum was the producer. Area greats who have contributed to Newark's gospel scene will include Provenance Music Group, Anthony Ponder, Milton Biggum, the 13th Avenue School Choir, Lorraine Stancil, 8-year-old prodigy Hilton Rawls III, Dale Ciceron, Donnie Harper, Ken Matsuo, Gui Nobrega, James Hall and more. #KickinItWithTheKing

##### **KIK ROX / FILM MAKER + RISK TAKER** **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT**

The Hadley Gallery: 5 North 7th Street #3, Newark, NJ 07107  
Thursday, October 4th, 6 - 10PM:  
Screening: *The National Anthem* (2003)- Avant garde short film about a young lady who lives in a world clad in black and white business suits and white face masks. When she tries to break free from the oppressive and confusing system she is violently pushed back in. *The National Anthem* has been screened worldwide and most notably to Canal + at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. The film features a original score by former Interpol bassist Carlos Dengler the music of Interpol, Bjork and Radiohead's Thom York.  
Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 10PM:  
Screening: *Trap Cakes*- A multi-dimensional feature film that presents the textures, sounds and spirits of the people who inhabit the bottom of the system known as "The Trap" as they praise the creator and look inward

to supply the built and natural environment.

Saturday, October 6th, 6PM - 10PM: *The 300 (2015)* - A 300 image digital story book about the power of the human spirit.

Sunday, October 7, 6PM - 10PM: Short films and projects by Kik Roks.

#### **KULTURE FEAST CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

962 Bergen Street, Newark, NJ 07112

Thursday, October 4th, 5 - 11PM: Opening Reception

Friday, October 5th, 11 - 6PM: Gallery Hours

Saturday, October 6th, 1:30 - 5PM: Artist Talk/Panel Discussion

Sunday, October 7th, 4 -10PM: Closing Reception/Musical Guest

Kulture Feast a newly founded Arts & Culture organization based in the South Ward of Newark hosts a culture/subculture exhibit, which will include panel discussions, workshops, performances, and more. [www.kulturefeast.com](http://www.kulturefeast.com)

#### **LINK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH**

23 Pennsylvania Ave. Newark, NJ 07114

Saturday, October 6th: 12PM - 4PM

*Inspiration from Textile Artists: A Youth Art Exhibit and Day of the Arts* at Link. This exhibit will showcase artwork created by current students and recent alumni of Link Community Charter School. The students' artwork has been inspired by African Adinkra and Kente cloth, and by master artists such as Faith Ringgold, the Gee Bee Quilters, El Anatsui, and Kehinde Wiley. The students are led by Gwen Howard, arts educator, and local artist in residence. Drop-in art sessions will be provided for youth and families. [www.linkschool.org](http://www.linkschool.org)

#### **MONOLITHS IN CLAY HALSEY ST. NORTH**

The Dana Library, Rutgers University,

4th Floor 185 University Ave, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 8AM - 12AM (Midnight)

Friday, October 5th, 8AM - 12AM (Midnight)

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 6PM

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 8PM

The exhibition includes three-dimensional clay sculpture, miniature bronze sculpture, pottery, and jewelry. Two-dimensional work in the exhibition consists of very large giclee prints on canvas, and smaller giclee prints on paper. Building a clay sculpture video. [ingpeaceproject.com](http://ingpeaceproject.com)

#### **NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS M&T BANK**

##### **MURALS AND MARTINIS™ PUBLIC ART TOUR CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS ✨**

Meet at Newark Happening, 58 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102

Check in: 10:30AM | DEPART 11AM

Reception to Follow: 1PM

All Points West Distillery, 73 Tichenor Street, Newark, NJ 07105

Tickets: [newarkartsfestival.com](http://newarkartsfestival.com)

An Annual VIP Tour of Newark's Public Art & Historic Neighborhoods featuring stunning public art, conversations with the muralists, post-tour cocktail reception at All Points West Distillery catered by Catas and complimentary swag bag. Co-sponsored by City of Newark, Prudential Financial, Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, Newark Happening, Catas, All Points West Distillery, Radio 103.9 FM

#### **NEWARK ARTS EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE (NAER) GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

Newark Public Library, Van Buren Branch

140 Van Buren Street, Newark, NJ 07105

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

Artist Jenny Leung, in collaboration with Newark Arts Education Round-table, brings her 6,000 paper cranes to Open Doors Kids. This includes a workshop on how to fold the origami cranes from students 6 and up and making a crane wish for ages 3 and up. Parents/guardians must be present with children.

#### **NEWARK COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH**

31 Green Street, Room 310, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 8PM: Opening Reception

Launched in 2011 by the Center for Court Innovation, Newark Community Solutions (NCS) is a community justice initiative that applies a problem-solving approach to low-level cases in the Newark Municipal Court. [www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org)

#### **NEWARK LATINO FILM FESTIVAL CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 8:30PM:

*Dinner & A Movie Under The Stars*

Down Bottom Farms (of Ironbound Community Organization)

Corner of Ferry Street & St. Charles Street, Newark, NJ 07105

FREE EVENT. From 6PM - 6:30PM, join us for a fun phone camera workshop by filmmaker Ramon G. Nazario. At 7PM, the main event features a short family film shown via Colectivo Workshop (the solar paneled Architecture & Design office as a theatre in the parking lot for indoor/outdoor viewing of short films!) Enjoy healthy, delicious cultural food and refreshments (including popcorn!)

Thursday, October 4th, 9PM - 10:30PM:

Art & Prozak: 571 Broad Street, Newark NJ 07102

Art & Prozak will be ending its art event with short films, including from the Newark Latino Film Festival. Light refreshments, delicious "mocktails" (non-alcoholic herbal wines).

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 9PM:

Zucchini Bar (Rashena Burroughs, Proprietor)

547 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07107

A film screening and exhibition in this favorite intimate dining spot of Newark's vegan community. Delicious vegan cuisine available for purchase by "Chef Latina" herself, Rebecca Lopez.

Saturday, October 6th, 6PM - 10PM:

*UNIDOS: LATINO & HISPANIC ARTISTS UNITE*

The Official Newark Latino Film Festival Grand Opening

Taino's Hall: 849 Mt. Prospect Avenue, Newark NJ 07104

Red Carpet Opening! Free screening of festival award winning music videos, plus cultural art exhibition. Meet the artists. Art for purchase. Food, refreshments, music, performances.

Sunday, October 7th, 1PM - 5PM:

O'LaLa Empanadas & Latino Fusion Cuisine

194 Market St., Newark, NJ 07102

Screenings of award winning short films. Art exhibition and music!

Also, ceremony to honor Indigenous People's Day of Remembrance. Menu discount to Open Doors Studio Tour participants.

#### **THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HALSEY ST. NORTH**

52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 12PM - 5PM

Friday, October 5th, 12PM - 5PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 5PM

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM

*Firehouses of Newark*: an exhibition of works by photographer Maggie Brown. [www.jerseyhistory.org](http://www.jerseyhistory.org)

#### **NEWARK MUSEUM HALSEY ST. NORTH**

49 Washington St. Newark, NJ 07102

\*Museum Admission Free throughout the Weekend

Thursday, October 4th, 12PM - 5PM: Open to the Public

12PM - 3PM: *For Freedoms* Voter Registration Drive

Saturday, October 6th, 10PM - 5PM: Open to the Public



Explore the museum's diverse collection. Guests will experience the masterpieces on exhibition; culminating in an engaging open studio to be experienced by visitors of all ages

10AM - 12PM: All Ages Activities

1PM - 4PM: All Ages Activities MakerSPACE

12PM - 4PM: *For Freedoms* Voter Registration Drive & Plaza Party Plaza party (with a mission). Help us get-out-the-vote with a voter registration drive, "lawn sign" art-making, a live DJ, a selfie station, and light refreshments

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM: Open to the Public

[www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org)

### **NEWARK MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAM GATEWAY/IRONBOUND** ✨

The Salvation Army - Ironbound Community Center

138 Clifford Street (Btwn: Van Buren & Adam Streets) Newark, NJ 07105

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

The Salvation Army NJ Music Department invites parents and their children ages 6 and up to participate in hands-on musical activities including playing the trumpet, trombone, guitars, drums and to sign up for free Newark music and arts programs in Ironbound.

### **NEWARK PRINT SHOP HALSEY ST. NORTH**

Express Newark: 54 Halsey Street, FL 2, Newark, NJ 07102

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 12PM: PINT SIZED PRINT CLUB

Saturday, October 6th, 4PM - 8PM: PRINT CLUB MARKET

Saturday, October 6th, 6PM - 9PM: PRINTERS IN RESIDENCE VIII

#### **PINT SIZED PRINT CLUB**

*\*in conjunction with Open Doors Kids + Cool Cat Newark*

Pint-Sized Print Club is a free drop-in program for preschool aged children and their caregivers. In this hands-on workshop, students will create foam printing plates, ink the plates using brayers, and transfer their images onto fabric flags using our child-size etching press.

#### **PRINT CLUB MARKET**

Print Club Market is an artisan market of hand printed apparel, goods, and fine art. The vendors market consists of artists and crafters that are part of the Print Club community at Newark Print Shop. Complimentary tote bags to the first 50 shoppers!

#### **PRINTERS IN RESIDENCE VIII**

*Printers in Residence VIII* showcases the artwork created by our Spring resident artists Jamie Bruno, Michael Dal Cerro, and Jay Golding. For six months, these artists have had unlimited access to Newark Print Shop facilities to explore and engage with printmaking processes in order to expand their artistic practice.

[www.newarkprintshop.org](http://www.newarkprintshop.org)

### **NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY HALSEY ST. NORTH**

5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07017

Thursday, October 4th, 9AM - 8PM

Friday, October 5th, 9AM - 5PM

Saturday, October 6th, 9AM - 5PM

**FIRST FLOOR GALLERY:** *Synagogues of Newark*, curated by Philip Yourish, looks at the history of Jewish religious life in Newark. This traveling exhibit has been organized by Ahavas Sholom, the oldest active Jewish congregation in Newark.

**SECOND FLOOR GALLERY:** *Are Latinx Transforming the US*, an exhibition that illustrates how the US Latinx population has transformed US mainstream music, theatre, literature, sports, etc. by crossing over from Latino to broader audiences and vice-versa. The result of the crossovers are mixed music genres such as Spanish rock and Reggaeton; crossover actors such as Salma Hayek who successfully crossed over from telenovelas and Spanish language films to mainstream English television and mainstream films; and more. Featured work by muralist Layqa Nuna Yawar will accompany this exhibit.

**THIRD FLOOR GALLERY:** The Newark Public Library is proud to partner with the Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee on the exhibit entitled *Old School*, curated by Claudia B. Ocello. Featuring photos, report cards, sweatshirts, sports equipment, school banners, an antique desk, and other artifacts, Old School traces the history of the Newark Public Schools. [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org)

### **NEWARK SCHOOL OF THE ARTS LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH**

89 Lincoln Park, Newark, NJ, 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 6:30PM:

Gallery Opening Reception & Talk

Friday, October 5th, 5:30PM - 7PM:

BYO Paint n' Sip

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM:

*Music and Movement at NSA:* In this 45-minute class designed to initiate young children into the joys of music, Ms. Carmen helps guide families through their child's rhythmic, tonal and physical development through a mix of play, singing, chants, dancing, instrument exploration and movement. So get ready to have FUN!! This class meets regularly Saturdays at 10 am and, for this occasion, will be free and open to the public. Ideal for children 9 months to 5 years old who must be accompanied by an adult

Saturday, October 6th, 4PM:

The Music of Antonio Carlos Jobim featuring Guitarist, Joao Kouyoumdjian centered on the rare collaboration by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Joao Gilberto of the movie *Black Orpheus* (1959) and other Bossa-Nova music.

### **NEWARK'S VOICES SING BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY WITH XIAN ZHANG AND THE NJSO HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

NJPAC: 1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 7:30PM

Sunday, October 7th, 3PM

Tickets Required. NJPAC Box Office: 1-888-GO-NJPAC

Newark Voices is a project-based community choir supported by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. It will be conducted by Dr. Heather J. Buchanan and accompanied by Steven W. Ryan. The choir formation is specifically to engage talented singers and experienced choral musicians from the Greater Newark community to join the NJSO in celebrating its 2018-19 season opening. Newark Voices will partner with the Montclair State University Chorale to perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "Choral" for two NJPAC performances. [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org)

### **NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS**

#### **NICE/NASTY AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

##### **Curated by Armisey Smith**

Hahne & Co: 625 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Street Level Space Pop Up Gallery Space

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 10PM: Opening Reception

Friday, October 5th, 5PM - 9PM: Open to the Public

Saturday, October 6th, 5PM - 9PM: Open to the Public

Sunday, October 7th, 4PM - 7PM: Closing Reception

*Nice/Nasty and Everything In Between* is an exhibition curated by Armisey Smith featuring contemporary, and post-modern women artists from the NJ/NY area. *Nice/Nasty* is an exhibit that encourages emerging and established women artists to confront male-dominated art culture. Women artists are under-represented in galleries and exhibitions, while men, despite their technical and creative skills, are bequeathed carte blanche in professional artistic realms.

*Nice/Nasty and Everything In Between* features contemporary works, performances and music by DJ Gizelle Manbodh. Participating artists include Bithika Adhikary, Sybil Archibald, Caren King Choi, Anne Dushanko Dobek, Megan Fleisher, Adebunmi Gbadebo, Krystle Lemonias, Maria Mineo, Ruth Bauer Neustadter, SeungKyung Oh, Luisa F. Pinzon Romero, Lynn Presley, Kay Reese, Theda Sandiford, Jo Sie, Danielle Scott, Ameerah Shabazz, Cali Smith, Sue Eldridge Ward, Adrienne Wheeler, and Mary Young.



**“NOT UR MAMMY” A RETELLING OF HISTORY THROUGH THE VOICES OF ENSLAVED BLACK WOMEN.**

**CURATED BY CRYSTAL DES-O** [HALSEY ST. NORTH](#)

27 Academy St. Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 7PM - 9PM: Opening Reception

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 6PM - 8PM

Sunday, October 7th, 6PM - 9PM: Closing Reception & Workshop

Too often, the importance of the enslaved woman's role during slavery is overlooked- rendering her invisible/marginal within the historical landscape of American Chattel Slavery. This silencing of her history falls within a legacy of misogyny and anti-blackness that continues to erase and undervalue the voices and experiences of Black Women today. In an attempt to unveil the central role the enslaved woman's work played in laying the foundations of the “New World”, this project uplifts her narratives as a dedication to her story and legacy. [www.sadienash.org](http://www.sadienash.org)

**NJPAC** [HALSEY ST. NORTH](#)

Open Doors Kids... and Adults too!

Tour and All Ages Salsa Class

1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Saturday, October 6th, during Open Doors Kids

11AM - 12PM: Tour

12PM - 1PM: Salsa Class



The New Jersey Performing Arts Center is not only America's foremost presenter of arts and entertainment, NJPAC is a leader in arts education for children. Every year, NJPAC's live performances, school residency programs and Saturday & Summer arts training classes reach thousands. Come join NJPAC during Open Doors Kids on Saturday, October 6th for a tour followed by a “Mommy/Daddy & Me” salsa dance class! All ages are welcome and fun for the whole family! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Single adults are also welcome. [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org)

**OFF THE HANGER** [LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH](#)


12 Linden Street, Newark NJ 07102

Saturday October, 6th, 11AM - 6PM

Lynette Lashawn presents *Closet Confessionals*. This stylish installation will feature visuals of individuals' closets accompanied by a short documentary of the subjects sharing their confessions. Images and Video by Anita Dickens (ANE) [www.lynette-lashawn.com](http://www.lynette-lashawn.com)

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS OPEN DOORS KIDS** [CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS](#) ✨

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

Come join the City of Newark for Open Doors Kids- participate in arts as institutions around the city open their doors to expose youth to the arts. Newark Arts is partnered with Newark Arts Education Roundtable (NAER), to promote the idea that arts education is inherently valuable to every educator and student. Open Doors Kids actualizes that mission and engages youth and families/caregivers through age appropriate fine art, theater and the humanities. Thank you to all the Open Doors Kids participating sites. Look for the Open Doors Kids symbol  to identify all Kids Approved activities. Check our website for the most up to date listings: [newarkarts.org/newarkartsfestival/opendoorskids](http://newarkarts.org/newarkartsfestival/opendoorskids)

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS**

**OPEN DOORS STUDIO TOURS** [CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS](#) ✨

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM

In keeping with the festival's beginnings as an artist studio tour, the Open Doors Studio Tour will remain a festival highlight. Don't miss the annual Open Doors Studios Tour! Gain exclusive access to over 100 private artists' studios and experience art-in-action during this FREE self-guided event. Visitors from near and far can take a look behind the scenes of local artistry at venues around the city while connecting with

both emerging and established creatives.

The Dietze Building, 60-64 Union Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Express Newark, 54 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Gallery Aferro, 73 Market Street, Newark, NJ 07102

PES Studios, 2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Index Art Center, 233 - 237 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

and many other independent artist studios!

Check our website for the most up to date listings:

[newarkarts.org/newarkartsfestival/opendoorsstudiotours](http://newarkarts.org/newarkartsfestival/opendoorsstudiotours)

**MIRROR MIRROR ARTIST TALK WITH ANNE-KARIN FURUNES**

**AT PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES, EXPRESS NEWARK** [HALSEY ST. NORTH](#)

Main Gallery at Express Newark,

54 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Friday, October 5th, 12:30PM - 2PM

In conjunction with the exhibition *Mirror Mirror*, the Paul Robeson Galleries presents an artist talk with Anne-Karin Furunes, a contemporary Norwegian artist best known for hyper realistic portraits created through a rigorous process of perforating the surface of the canvas. [www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu)

**MIRROR MIRROR AT**

**PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES, EXPRESS NEWARK** [HALSEY ST. NORTH](#)

Main Gallery at Express Newark

54 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 12PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 5PM

The exhibition *Mirror Mirror* plumbs the relationship between identity, cultural norms, and representation. The artists in the show have approached the subject of portraiture in a multitude of ways. Historically, portraiture was utilized in service of the ruling classes, and some of the works in the exhibition explore the machinations of the powerful, touching upon the fraught histories of colonialism, slavery, American inference abroad, and eugenic practices. Taken as a whole, the works in *Mirror Mirror* communicate the connected nature of representation and self-determination. [www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu)

**KEVIN BLYTHE SAMPSON: OLDE SOUL AT**

**PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES, EXPRESS NEWARK** [HALSEY ST. NORTH](#)

Main Gallery at Express Newark

54 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 12PM - 8PM

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 5PM

*Kevin Blythe Sampson: Olde Soul* presents a selection of rarely-seen drawings by Kevin Blythe Sampson, alongside early mixed-media sculptures and ephemera from the artist's studio. The son of a civil rights leader, Sampson was raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He initially trained with and joined the New Jersey police force as a sketch artist and served for eighteen years, ten of which were spent police sketching. A series of family tragedies eventually compelled him to heal himself by making art. [www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu)

**PROJECT FOR EMPTY SPACE** [GATEWAY/IRONBOUND](#)

2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 11PM - 6PM:

Open to the Public and *For Freedoms* Voting Booth

Friday, October 5th, 11PM - 6PM: Open to the Public

Sunday, October 7th: 1PM - 5PM: Open Studios

*where the ocean meets the sky* explores the spaces that lie just beyond our vision. Artist Jaret Vadera brings together works in photography, collage, sculpture, video, and projection to weave together a constellation of multivalent stories about aliens, rude maps, and unreliable narrators. vadera is an artist scholar in residence at Project for Empty Space. *where*

*the ocean meets the sky* is on view from September 5th - October 12th, 2018. [www.projectforemptyspace.org](http://www.projectforemptyspace.org)

**PROSPECT FIRE STATION GALLERY** **GATEWAY/IRONBOUND** ✨  
**IRONBOUND COMMUNITY CORPORATION (ICC)**

**PRESENT WALLS OF LIFE**

56 Prospect Street, Newark, NJ 07105

Thursday, October 4th, 5PM - 9PM

Friday, October 5th, 3PM - 9PM

Saturday, October 6th, 3PM - 9PM

Sunday, October 7th, 5PM - 8PM: Closing Night Soiree presented by ICC

The Fired Up Gallery presents a group show, *WALLS OF LIFE*, curated by Gregg Banks. *WALLS OF LIFE* will feature works by Allison Capel, Ausfam, Elijah, Eric Jean Louis, Jay Golding, Malcom Sweet, Somina Mosaku, Suliman, Sunah Nash, Tasha Jay, Thomas, Will Verdeja and Gregg Banks.

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS LINCOLN PARK MUSIC SPEAKS'**

**TEM X NWK LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH** ✨

**Rare & Unseen Moments of 90s Hip Hop**

**Photography of T. Eric Monroe**

**Curated by Malik Whitaker**

City Without Walls Gallery, 6 Crawford Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Saturday, October 6th, 7:30PM - 11PM: Opening Reception

Wednesday, October 10th, 6:30PM - 8:30PM: Artist Talk

October 11th - 12th, 3PM - 7PM: Open to the Public

Saturday, October 13th, 5:30PM - 8:30PM: Closing Reception

T. Eric Monroe's body of work features rare images and moments from the 90's, chronicling the intertwining worlds of Hip-hop, Skateboarding, and Hardcore (Punk). The collected images are a rare glimpse into "that moment when life becomes immortalized - capturing a moment in life that tells its own story of your cultural heroes," says Monroe. Monroe's images have been featured in publications like Thrasher Magazine, The Source, XXL, Transworld Skateboarding Magazine, along with international publications. He has licensed content for documentaries and television - all at a time prior to digital photography and the convenience and ease of the internet. #HipHopsAmericanHistory #TEMNWK [www.tdoterica.com](http://www.tdoterica.com)

**NEWARK ARTS PRESENTS RICHARD BEAVERS POP UP GALLERY**

Curated by Richard Beavers **HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

Hahne & Co. | 625 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 6PM - 9PM: Opening Reception

Friday, October 5th, 5:30PM - 7:30PM: Artist Talk with Genesis Tramaine

Friday, October 5th, 5PM - 9PM: Open to the Public

Saturday, October 6th, 12PM - 7PM: Open to the Public

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM: Open to the Public

Richard Beavers Gallery, established in 2007, is a contemporary fine art gallery with a collection that primarily consists of work depicting various aspects of life in an urban environment through a multitude of genres. The artwork is inspired by the culture of these communities and addresses the many social and political issues in the forefront of society. RB Gallery aims to educate, inspire, and stir consciousness - whether you are a seasoned collector, art appreciator or merely have an interest in art, alike. *Artists Represented:* Genesis Tramaine, Phyllis Stephens, Leroy Campbell, Frank Morrison, Shawn Theodore *Works By:* Nathaniel Mary Quinn and Faith Ringgold.

**RYARMO PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO** **CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

74 MLK Jr. Blvd., Newark, NJ 07104

Friday, October 5th, 6PM - 10PM: Opening Reception

*My Black is Beautiful* features a collection of portraits of black women.

[www.ryarmophotographystudio.com](http://www.ryarmophotographystudio.com)

**SHINE PORTRAIT STUDIO &**

**PUBLIC ARTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE** **HALSEY ST. NORTH**

**Location 1:** Express Newark

54 Halsey Street, Studio 319, Newark, NJ 07102

Thursday, October 4th, 5PM - 10PM:

For Freedoms Voter Registration Booth

**Location 2:** Aljira, a Center For Contemporary Art:

591 Broad St, Newark, NJ 07102

Installation @ Aljira can be viewed 24/7

Shine Portrait Studio in collaboration with New Arts Social Justice Initiative at Express Newark presents a photography based installation in the front window of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, as well as in Shine, by feminist photographer and activist Scheherazade Tillet. This series of photographs "...*Sitting in the Wicker Chair*" is part of the larger *Visibility Project*, a collaborative documentary project on the inner lives and external worlds of African-American girls produced by Scheherazade and young women and girl photographers from the Chicago-based national nonprofit A Long Walk Home's program for teen girls, The Girl/Friends Leadership Institute. The Newark Arts Festival is a kickoff to our 2-year collaboration, and part of the larger For Freedoms 50 State Initiative public art project. [www.shineportrait.com](http://www.shineportrait.com)

**SUNDAY WITH NE-NE' HALSEY ST. NORTH** ✨

**Up Close & Personal with Genesis Tramaine**

Express Newark, Artist Studio 417

54 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 1AM - 5PM

Tramaine's original artwork, *Ne-Ne'* embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is what Newark Arts Festival is all about. Genesis is artist-in-residence at Rutgers University-Newark's Paul Robeson Galleries. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, including the Richard Beavers Gallery, Gallery Aferro, and the Newark LGBTQ Community Center.

**3 THE ART WAY AT MOCHA LOUNGE** **HALSEY ST. NORTH**

17 Academy Street, Newark, 07102

Friday, October 5th, 7PM: Soiree

Saturday, October 6th, 6PM: Exhibition

*3 The Art Way* presents a return exhibition, *Remedies of the Soul*, featuring temporary murals, wearable art, live performances, and more! The collective's work reflects the renderings of the African-American experience. [www.slimsuliart.com](http://www.slimsuliart.com)

**NEWARK ARTS AND COUNTY OF ESSEX PRESENTS**

**VOICES OF THE CITY** **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS/FAIRMOUNT** ✨

Curated by Malik Whitaker

Essex County Donald. M. Payne Sr. School of Technology

498-544 W. Market Street, Newark, NJ 07107

Friday, October 5th, 5:30PM - 8:30PM: Opening Reception

Co-Sponsored by City of Newark, Essex County Donald. M. Payne Sr.

School of Technology, M&T Bank, Prudential Financial

*Voices of the City* is a collaborative group show giving stage to the collective perspectives of the ever-evolving artist community as they filter the world through their passion and exuberance. This pop-up show will feature artists of varying levels to create an impactful message; one voice that speaks up against current social issues such as bullying, child separation, immigrant issues, cultural divides, racism; its many forms, and many other challenges plaguing communities all over our city and country. The night will culminate in a spectacular art exhibition with Live poetry and music. The event will integrate students from Essex County Donald. M. Payne Sr. School of Technology in the fields of culinary arts, film/television, and the jazz ensemble will provide the "soundtrack" for the reception. [www.essextech.org/donald-m-payne-tech/](http://www.essextech.org/donald-m-payne-tech/)

**WBGO 88.3 NEWARK PUBLIC RADIO CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

54 Park Pl, Newark, NJ 07102

Saturday, October 6th, 10AM - 2PM

Families can tune into WBGO 88.3FM or WBGO.org and dance to the Rhythm Revue from 10a-2p! Great family fun wherever you are!

[www.wbgo.org](http://www.wbgo.org)**▶ OPEN DOORS STUDIO TOUR  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH (A-Z)****BOB BONANNO STUDIO CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

232 Berkeley Avenue, Newark, NJ 07107

Sunday, October 7th, 8AM - 6PM

Bob Bonanno grew up in Nutley, NJ. It was in the basement of his parents' home that, in 1973, at the age of fifteen, he first experimented with droplets of melted crayon. Since, Bonanno has been working with the medium to create pieces called "Meltings". Bob has resided in Newark, NJ since 1987. His art work has been reviewed in The Star-Ledger and The New York Times. He has been featured on News 12 NJ and in Weird New Jersey Magazine.

**CRYOUT CAVE CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

43 Bloomfield Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

Sunday, October 7th, 3PM - 9PM: Open to the public

4:30PM - 6:30PM: Meet the Artists + Live Performances

*Unboxed: Frames Of Mind*: An art and poetry happening.

Visit with artists Kervin Andre, T. Tre'es, Raphael Cuello, Kern Bruce, Jerry Gant, Linda Street, Mosaku, Inna Bolund, and Ikenna Chineme. The Cryout Cave was established to be a home for poetry, art, music, and culture for the talented residents of Newark who found themselves having to travel outside of the city to exhibit and grow their talents. [www.facebook.com/cryoutcave](http://www.facebook.com/cryoutcave)

**EXPRESS NEWARK HALSEY ST. NORTH**

54 Halsey Street, Rooms 219 &amp; 417, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM

Express Newark Artist in Residence Program(s): As a conceptual frame-work and an interdisciplinary learning space, Express Newark houses twenty-two resident artists. Visit David D. Oquendo (Room 219) at the Form Design Studio and Form Design Lab, a hub where academic research, course offerings, cross-disciplinary collaborations and community programming take place. Visit Genesis Tramaire (Room 417), a resident artist at Paul Robeson Galleries. PRG's mission is carried out through visual arts exhibitions, education and public programs, and in partnerships with community organizations. [www.expressnewark.org](http://www.expressnewark.org)

**GALLERY AFERRO STUDIOS MARKET ST.**

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ 07101

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 5PM

Gallery Aferro Open Studios artists: Anna Arcuri, Giacomo Colosi, Masakhane Center, John Matturi, Lisette Morel, Michael K. Taylor, Frederick Hayes, Gilbert Hsiao, Hal Laessig Yoland Laessig, Anne Q. McKeown, Mía Duran, Anne Dushanko Dobek, Tasha Lewis, Amanda Thackray, Ken Weathersby, Patricia Cazorla, Nancy Saleme, Juno Zago and Dominique Duroseau [www.aferro.org](http://www.aferro.org)

**INDEX ART CENTER STUDIOS MARKET ST.**

233 - 237 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7, 12PM - 6PM

IAC's Open Studios artists: Patricia Dahlman, Diana Palermo, Fern and Fossil, Colleen Gutwein and Joseph O'Neal, Kevin Durkin and Jeff Koroski, 'and / or' Colin Shields, Jamie Bruno and Jenn Schwartz, Agnes Deja, Sally Helmi, Heidi Lorrenz-Wettach Hussa, Peter Dougherty and Jillian Keats [www.indexartcenter.org](http://www.indexartcenter.org)

**MAGGIE'S STUDIO LINCOLN PARK/HALSEY ST. SOUTH**

195 West Kinney Street Apt 206 Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 1PM - 5PM

Featuring the work of M. Malcolm King (photographer, poet and playwright), Theodore Lawton ( filmmaker, photographer, and painter) and Sadee Brathwaite (artist, curator, and arts facilitator).

**MATT ENGER STUDIO GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

126 Pulaski Street Storefront, Newark NJ 07105

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 6PM

Matt Founded Exploding Sky Worldwide in 1990 with twin brother artist Mark Enger in New York's Lower East Side. His work revolves around painting, drawing, screen printing, and installations, as well as limited edition apparel; t-shirts, jackets and art objects. [www.mattengerstudio.com](http://www.mattengerstudio.com)

**NELL PAINTER STUDIO GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

60-64 Union Street, Suite BF, Newark, NJ 07105

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 7PM

Nell Painter (formerly known as the historian Nell Irvin Painter, author of *The History of White People*, *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol*, *Creating Black Americans*, and *Old in Art School: A Memoir of Starting Over*, and the *Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University*) lives and works in Newark, New Jersey. Painter's work carries discursive as well as visual meaning, created through their characteristic manual + digital process. Using found images and digital manipulation; Painter reconfigures the past and revision of herself through self-portraits. After a life of historical truth and political engagement with American society, her artwork represents freedom. [www.nellpainter.com](http://www.nellpainter.com)

**PES STUDIOS GATEWAY/IRONBOUND**

2 Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 1PM - 5PM

PES Open Studios artists: Adeburni Gbadebo, Amy Khoshbin, Andrew Sheldon, Angel Soltero, Anna Cone, Ceaphas Stubbs, Christen Clifford & Ventiko, Daniel Hibbert, Daniela Puliti, David Rios, Delano Dunn, Felipe Baeza, Gil Torres, Harvey Chan, Jasmine Figueroa & Qumaury Woulard, Jennifer Watson, Justin Francesco Dinspechin & Nick Luciano, Kambui Olujimi, Katherine Toukhy & Jennifer Coard, Kelly Ann Pinho, Kelly Vetter, Laura Marciniak, Lisa Sanders, Noreen Heard, Paolo Martinez, PEL NYC, Phoebe King, Ricardo Osmondo Francis, Rui Abrunheiro, Shaneen Tyrese, Shoshanna Weinberger, Soo Son, Tarah Douglas, Vaughn Spann, Victoria Udonian, Wolfgang Gil (The Honk Tweet), Yvette Molina and More. [www.pesstudios.org](http://www.pesstudios.org)

**RYARMO PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO CITYWIDE EXCURSIONS**

74 MLK Jr Drive, Newark, NJ 07104

Sunday, October 7th, 12PM - 7PM

Ryan Arnez Monroe, Owner/Creative Director of RyArMo Photography Studio, is a Newark based photographer with nine years of experience photographing, editing/retouching digital images and creating high quality work for a diverse client base. RyArMo Photography Studio has a dual program, which specializes in commercial use (events & weddings) and community education. [www.ryarmophotographystudio.com](http://www.ryarmophotographystudio.com)

**VANDALHAUS HALSEY ST. NORTH**

53 New Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

Sunday, October 7th, 4PM - 10PM

Another installment of our ...in the #LoveDimension recording series #in360, featuring Vandalhaus co-creators Ole Lie Vandal & S.H.E.W.H.O? [www.vandalhaus.com](http://www.vandalhaus.com)



# HYCIDE PRESENTS *IN FLUX*

CARRIE STETLER | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, *HYCIDE MAGAZINE*



HYCIDE magazine's launch party and pop-up exhibition in conjunction with the 2018 Newark Arts Festival marks the release of its 9th issue, *HYCIDE In Flux*, which explores themes of impermanence and change.

Both the issue and the exhibition, held on October 4th, include images that trace Akintola Hanif's evolution as an artist. Photos span the breadth of his two-decade career, from his documentation of marginalized groups— such as gang members and the homeless— to his many portraits revealing the beauty and complexity of Black style and subculture.

Hanif is the editor-in-chief of HYCIDE, a Newark-based photojournalism and arts magazine he founded in 2011. This issue includes the story of Hanif's return to his craft after a stroke in 2017.

*HYCIDE In Flux* also features stories and images by other artists focusing on spiritual, political and creative transformations and turning points. Photographer Philip Shung presents portraits of Black Brooklynites during a time of gentrification; Artist Tanda Francis discusses her transition from graphic design to sculpture, and Jameel Newkirk describes the otherworldly inspiration for his psychedelic photo-based images.

A photo essay titled *The 5 Wards* explores the city during Newark's 350th anniversary in 2016, a time when the media narrative shifted from a focus on crime to redevelopment and signs of gentrification. Photographers include Colleen Gutwein, Cesar Melgar, Manuel Acevedo, Fabian Palencia, Stefan Brown, Tamara Fleming, and Nema Etebar. *HYCIDE In Flux* also sets the stage for HYCIDE's upcoming *Black Power/White Privilege* issue, due out next year.

*Image:* Courtesy of Akintola Hanif, *HYCIDE MAGAZINE*



The New York Times/Lonny Kaifus

Members of 'City-Without-Walls' artistic community in the groups studio workshop in Newark

## *City Without Walls Fostering Newark Arts*

*Image:* Courtesy of the New York Times  
From *City Without Walls Fostering Newark Arts*, 1976  
By Joan Cook, Image by Lonny Kaifus



# ▷ LEGACY- CITY WITHOUT WALLS

**BY MICHAEL A. GONZALES**

In the 1970s, Newark was best known for what it used to be. A former factory town that was also once the home of many jazz clubs, culturally the city couldn't compete with the happenings across the river in New York. Art wise, the Newark Museum, which was established in 1909, was the only major institution in the once bustling metropolis, while the only independently operated space was the AARD Studio Gallery which opened in 1972 and was owned by artist Gladys Grauer. "When I first opened the gallery, there was no art going on in the city," Grauer told interviewer Gary Campbell in 2017. However, three years later Grauer's grassroots gallery was no longer alone when City Without Walls (cWOW) opened their doors in 1975.

For the next 42-years, until its closing in late 2017, cWOW was a vital space for emerging artists, students and the Newark community at large. Founded by Thomas Micchelli, Brian Hanlon and Kevin Dowd, who was the first artistic director, the group originally worked out of, as described by a 1976 New York Times article, "a one-time Benedictine convent and an abandoned elementary school operated by the same order at 41 Shipman Street here." The first year cWOW was in operation, their events included a 53-piece art show in the lobby of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival in Branch Brook Park, as well as painting and drawing workshops, film and theater programs, and travel and art shows that have brought plays, concerts, sculpture and painting to city street corners, schools, parks, and playgrounds.

The gallery moved a few times, with its final home being 6 Crawford Street. The last show, which opened in October, 2017, was a group tribute to Ntozake Shange's choreopoem "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf." Mounted during the tenure of cWOW's last executive director fayemi shakur, the successful show was curated by Peter Wright, a.k.a. Souleo. "I had visited cWOW a few years before I did the show there and was impressed with the space as well as their mission," says Souleo, who is currently the Manager of Public Programs at the Newark Museum. "With the *for colored girls* show, when I began thinking of spaces, I knew I needed a gallery administration that would support the show and shakur got it. cWOW was a hub in the community, and though I knew of the challenges they were facing, which is the challenges that many smaller arts institutions go through, I was still surprised when they closed."

Having seen the stunning show twice, I thought it was one of the most innovative exhibits I'd seen in years, a sentiment shared with local photographer and HYCIDE publisher Akintola Hanif. "Even though all the artists were not women, it focused on the issues plaguing black women across the country and globe," Hanif says. "Not only was the art aesthetically superb, it was thoughtful and insightful." Hanif too has been active in the gallery since 1985 when he participated in a massive graffiti exhibition, curated by Manuel Acevedo, a show that featured some of the best "writers" (artists) from New Jersey as well as from New York City. "There were 10 foot murals, canvases, designer (markers) pieces, airbrushed shirts and abstract pieces from some of the finest graf writers in the tri-state. They made limited edition catalogs with acetate covers that all the writers signed with paint markers. It's a collector's item now."

In addition, Hanif also curated the 2016 photograph exhibit *The 5 Wards* and worked for years in the ArtReach program, which paired high school students with artistic mentors. In fact, many Newark artists have participated in the mentor program since it began in 1992 under the guidance of Paul Belfanti, a Rhode Island School of Design-trained painter who joined the board in 1986 and served as its chair from 2003-2015, and the late Eleta Caldwell, a board member, artist and principal at Arts High School.

Lifelong Newark resident and artist Jerry Gant also discovered cWOW in the 1980s. "In those years, young black kids in the city didn't always feel welcome at the Newark Museum," Gant says. "But, when I discovered cWOW it became my sanctuary. I went there between three and five times a week. At the time the gallery was located on the second floor of the Gateway Center and Roberta was the executive director." Gant began his career as a graffiti artist, but cites cWOW in helping expand his artistic horizons which today includes a variety of mediums. He has also served as a mentor in the ArtReach program, for five years.

“The ArtReach program is important in the development of young Newark artists who wouldn’t usually have any other outlets for their creativity,” he says. “Part of my mentorship involved taking my mentees to the library, because reading, studying, and research are just as important as the art itself.” In 2005, Gant was given the opportunity to co-curate the show *FRESH – A Kaleidoscope of Sound* with fayemi shakur.

In 2006 when artist/writer Ben Goldman became the director, he implemented the now popular City Murals program. Two years later artist Malik Whitaker, who moved across the street from cWOW, became quite active in the gallery where he began to volunteer. Working closely with Goldman, he soon became a resident artist, participating in workshops and the mural project. “There was just so much energy at City Without Walls,” Whitaker says. “I liked that it was started by artists and run by artists. The program was funded by the city, but it was the artists and their apprentices that did the work.”

Artists involved included Ibrahim Ahmed III, Steve Green, Sue Daly, and Gladys Grauer. Today known as “the mother of Newark’s African American art community,” she also served on the board at cWOW. It was also during that period, in 2010, that artist Lisa Conrad of the Newark Print Shop was introduced to Rodney Gilbert when she moved to the city.

“Rodney was hugely inspirational to me,” Conrad says. “I met him when I was a student at Rutgers University-Newark and he encouraged me to begin working with cWOW. He took me under his wing and plugged me into cWOW and teaching opportunities.” For four years Conrad was a part of the ArtReach program, teaching various printing processes including screening, etching, dark room and letter processing.” I learned as much from them as much as they did from me. cWOW might’ve been small, but the impact it had on the artists and kids in Newark was big.”

However, as a non-profit entity in a city that has been redeveloping quickly in the last decade, survival wasn’t easy and, unfortunately, the money wasn’t always there. Even as early as 2015 when Malik Whitaker became the interim director, the gallery was on the verge of closing. “We were ready to throw in the towel and the board was already talking about filing for bankruptcy,” he says. “We went from 6 to 8 shows a year down to 4. There wasn’t an official director hired for months, so there was no one applying for grants. It was a mess.”

By the time writer/curator fayemi shakur was hired as the director in 2016, cWOW was already running on empty. Though she tried hard to keep the doors open, it was a battle that couldn’t be won. As reported on the website Brick City Live, “Michelle Sainte, an associate dean at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City who serves as the chair of the organization’s board,

praised the gallery's then-executive director, fayemi shakur, who worked hard last summer to try to forge an alliance with neighborhood groups in Lincoln Park like Symphony Hall and the Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District to stitch together a plan to keep cWOW open. But Sainte said cWOW's problems began well before shakur started at cWOW in September 2016. It soon became clear that last summer's efforts to work with the city to come up with a solution didn't fit into the gallery's timetable."

However, while the doors might be closed, hope is still alive. For this year's Newark Arts Festival, Malik Whitaker put together a cWOW pop-up shop featuring the work of famed photographer T. Eric Monroe and has been actively working to get the doors at Crawford Street reopened. "City Without Walls has meant so much to so many people, I just hope we can reactivate and continue the legacy," Whitaker says. "The community is booming and we've approached the Newark Arts Council to help us in our efforts."

From City Hall, President and CEO for the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation Aisha Glover says, "For four decades, cWOW was more than just a gallery, it has played a critical role in the Newark art scene. The gallery also played a key role in community development in the Lincoln Park district. The mayor's office realizes the importance of City Without Walls and is currently trying to figure out how to resurrect the space into a kind of cWOW 2.0."

Cultural critic [Michael A. Gonzales](#) writes The Blacklist book column for Catapult. He has written for HYCIDE, The Paris Review, The Village Voice, Newark Bound and the upcoming Contact High: A Visual History of Hip-Hop edited by Vikki Tobak. A former hip-hop journalist, his articles, essays have appeared in The Source, RapPages, Vibe, Ego Trip, XXL, Complex and Mass Appeal.

# ▷ SPACES THAT MAKE PLACES

## **HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL INITIATIVES THAT FUEL THE PRESENT NEWARK VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY**

*ACCOMPANIED BY EXCERPTS FROM A SELECTION  
OF INTERVIEWS AND CONVERSATIONS.*

Gallery Aferro began in 2003 in a building on E. Kinney St. in the Ironbound. Co-founders and Co-directors Emma Wilcox and Evonne Davis built out the gallery in their home loft space, out of pocket, to be displaced several years later. That didn't stop them- In 2006 they opened a 20,000 sq. ft. space that housed the gallery, as well as artist studios at their present location, 73 Market St.

Emma and Evonne exemplify the spirit of the cultural workers of Newark, NJ. This city's practitioners are ruthlessly committed to developing arts programming and initiatives that serve the people 365 days a year. The annual Newark Arts Festival is a celebration of these efforts, a way to share the great work of creative spaces and the hard work behind them.



## THE NEWARK PRINT SHOP

54 HALSEY ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

A CONVERSATION WITH FOUNDER  
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA CONRAD



**THE PRINT SHOP BEGAN IN YOUR HOME STUDIO IN 2012. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT ITS INCEPTION? WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH NPS, AND BECOME A RESOURCE FOR THE NEWARK COMMUNITY?**

The print shop happened organically, and has been growing steadily ever since. It started out of the desire to share a process that I had fallen in love with and felt was inaccessible to many people.

I moved to Newark in 2010 into an active artist building at 585 Broad Street that housed studios and initiatives including Index Art Center. Living there was a huge inspiration to me as a young emerging artist. After living in the building for almost 3 years, a space finally opened up, and I activated it as my personal art studio for printmaking.

The shift from a personal art studio into a communal space happened pretty quickly and grew out of the desire to share with other creatives this space that I felt so fortunate to have. I started opening up the studio on Wednesday nights and coined it "Print Club" The shop was still make-shift: a small donated table-top etching press, thermofax machine, and silkscreen set up in the closet. But despite the modest set up, folks still came through regularly. This confirmed to me the validity of what I was doing. In many ways, Print Club is the seed that Newark Print Shop grew from, and remains to be the hub of what we do.

**REFLECTING ON THE LAST 6 YEARS- WHAT ARE A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE MOMENTS & MILESTONES?**

The journey for the Newark Print Shop has not always been easy, but despite the tribulations, the project has continued to be blessed.

Less than a year in, we were displaced abruptly due to an unfortunate fire. Getting the project back off the ground into our second location was definitely a milestone. Artists Jackie Cruz, Samer Fouad, and Stephen McKenzie joined me in spearheading Newark Print Shop in the new location. I learned a lot in the process; most importantly that if you put all of your good faith effort into something worth energizing, it is magnetized, and people will back it. We were able to open up at University Avenue due to the help of a lot of folks believing in my dream. I am extremely grateful for that. I would say another milestone is when Rutgers University-Newark approached us in the summer of 2014 to be a partner of their developing project, now called Express Newark. Launching

EN as the inaugural resident community partner reaffirmed the importance of the work we were doing and helped us to gain further visibility. We are very grateful for their support in our growth.

**YOU BECAME A MOTHER IN THE PAST COUPLE YEARS. HOW HAS THIS INFLUENCED SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THAT NPS OFFERS?**

Being a mother has actually given me more discipline and drive towards the goal of seeing the print shop become a successful and sustainable printmaking facility for years to come. It is my legacy, and a way for me to express to my son that it is possible to pursue your dreams and to carve out your own path; that in this life, anything is possible.

My son Jali is growing up in the print shop, so it is important to me that the shop is a welcoming space for him and other children. Traditional printmaking facilities are often pretty toxic spaces, but Newark Print Shop uses non-toxic materials and contemporary approaches to printmaking, from water-based screenprinting inks to soy-based etching inks.

I also launched several programs in the past few years, which were definitely inspired by Jali: *Pint-Sized Print Club* for pre-school aged children, *Mommy & Me Printing*, and *Homeschool Print Club*. I envision an entire space dedicated to children called the Little Newark Print Shop and hope our future includes a space large enough to accomplish this vision!

**WHERE DO YOU SEE THE PRINT SHOP IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS?**

I see the print shop in a more permanent home, housing all of our staple programs with the addition of a storefront marketplace, artist studios, and the Little Print Shop.

I also see Print Club annexes in neighboring cities including my former home, Philadelphia. These annexes will house screenprinting labs specifically for entrepreneurs, artists, and community members. I know the impact that Print Club has had on Newark, and want to see this program as a resource for other communities too. I am working diligently on manifesting these dreams.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* The Newark Print Shop's Print Club is a weekly open studio for artists of all levels to come and make art together.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.newarkprintshop.org](http://www.newarkprintshop.org)



## **WHAT WAS THE IMPETUS FOR STARTING GALLERY AFERRO?**

A desire to play with ideas in public. The need to manifest, locate and share resources for artists, as artists. A shared wish to annihilate borders and barriers to cultural engagement. The possibly universal human need to shape one's environment.

## **GALLERY AFERRO IS CELEBRATING ITS 15TH YEAR! IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOUR PROGRAMS STAYED THE SAME AND IN WHAT KEY WAYS HAVE THEY EVOLVED?**

Our programs will always evolve as we assume the form that seems to be required and share the power of shaping that form. Art always institutionalizes itself, so one has to be ready to resist the mandate to stick with a formula. Interestingly, though, I think it can be radical to be consistent in some ways, to steward something and become trustworthy in a community. DIY begins as necessity but it also is a way of understanding and being in the world. Some of the things we do include exhibits and an extremely wide range of events, an artist workspace residency program, educational programs, publications, public art, permanent sound installations, a community book room, and many hybridized projects that defy description...but I know that we will always be doing new things.

Aferro was originally conceived as being nomadic. So it felt good to take a really ambitious project, Aferro Mobile Portrait Studio on the road 2016-2017 to celebrate Newark's 350th year. The project was a synthesis of our earliest ideas, and what we learned being in a community for a long time. The original goal was to create free portraits of 350 Newarkers, using a fully equipped professional photo studio run off a generator out of a cargo trailer. But by late summer of 2016, we had photographed 1000 or so people, didn't have the desire to stop, and it seemed like people didn't want us to. One of the project parameters was that we went (BBQs, flea markets, concerts, warehouse parties, outside church...) only where we were invited. So there isn't a conventional project timeline; you often don't know where you are going next. It's generative, and it's an exercise in relinquishing and sharing control, making it an actual exchange.

## **WHAT DO YOU FORESEE FOR YOUR NEXT 15 YEARS?**

This is the part where I'm supposed to lay it all out. Co-founder Evonne M. Davis and I both have big visions, yes. But what I am most excited about for the next decade or so is that the people shaping programming will include people I haven't met yet, some of them just coming into their own as youth artists. As I said, with the Aferro Mobile Portrait Studio, and with many of our projects, they are generative, and responsive. I don't get to know it all upfront, and that's the best part. Evonne conceptualized a 2017-18 cycle of solo exhibits by women artists of color from

different generations, as well as an exhibit for Paul Robeson Galleries drawn from Interference Archive's collection of protest posters. Through this work, and our 2015-16 grassroots oral history and exhibit project about Newark's ark builder, Kea Tawana, we're doing more of what I'm calling legacy work, work that connects different generations. We're being called to serve in new ways and assume new forms.

One responds to the present but the best work continues to gain meaning over time. In 2066, 50 years from the launch of the Mobile Portrait Studio, the very youngest portrait subjects will be in mid-life. And the photos will still be there, barring some kind of Anthropocene type event, as a kind of open time capsule, a civic archive.

## **YOU HAVE PROVIDED RESIDENCY AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LGBTQIA ARTISTS IN THE PAST. AS SPACES ARE GRADUALLY BECOMING MODERATELY LESS HOSTILE, HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE IN PROVIDING THESE OPPORTUNITIES CHANGING?**

I don't really experience it as a state of "moderately less hostile," for me it is less a linear progression and instead something more complicated. I am thinking of the spontaneous vigil that Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, and Gallery Aferro held the day after the Pulse shooting, and also of when the gallery was the only NJ space to participate in the nationwide protest screenings organized in the wake of the censoring of "Fire in My Belly" by David Wojnarowicz from the National Portrait Gallery. The art and writing of people like David, and Reinaldo Arenas, both of whom died of AIDS in the early 90's, whom we never met, are from a different time, but give us strength every day for right now.

But more than anything, I am thinking of the queer or nonconforming or questioning youth who intentionally seek out and engage with the gallery. It is so important to be that space for someone. For all of us, the need for intergenerational dialogue and exchange between queer people of varying ages is real. The way language is used can be different. The distance between the lived experiences of those generations can seem to expand and contract in a given day; and being a space for dialogue is something that I am proud of about Gallery Aferro's ongoing work.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Co-Director Emma Wilcox, Gallery Manager Candace Nicholson, and Registrar Juno Zago

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.aferro.org](http://www.aferro.org)



**GALLERY AFERRO**

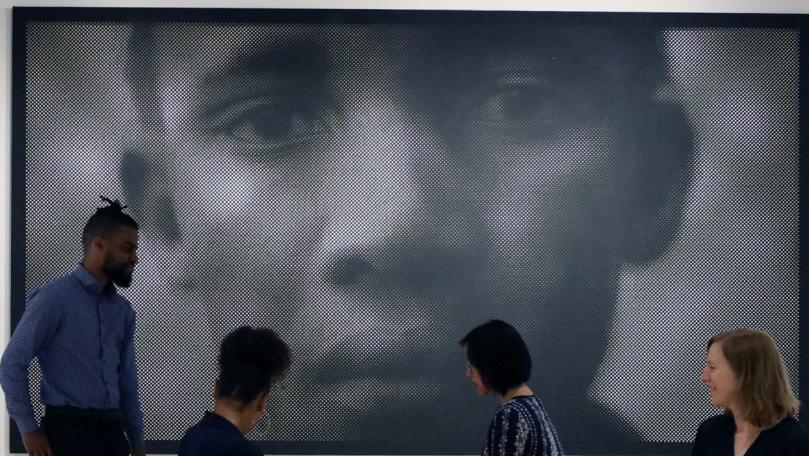
73 MARKET ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

CO-FOUNDER EMMA WILCOX SPEAKS  
ABOUT DIY, BIG IDEAS & IMPACT



**PAUL ROBESON GALLERIES**  
54 HALSEY ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*PRG TEAM TALK ON COMBINING  
CURRICULUM WITH COMMUNITY*





**PAUL ROBESON WAS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY; NOT ONLY WAS HE A DISTINGUISHED RUTGERS ALUM, ACTOR AND PUBLIC FIGURE; BUT ALSO, HE WAS AN IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST. WHAT ARE SOME SIGNIFICANT WAYS IN WHICH THE GALLERY CONTINUES TO UPHOLD ITS NAMESAKE'S LEGACY?**

*Amalia Mallard, Program Assistant:* The Paul Robeson Galleries upholds the legacy through exhibits and programs. Paul Robeson's political activism predates the civil rights movement. He was a trailblazer and displayed great courage by asserting his humanity, and that of African Americans through his art. He was both outspoken and treated as an outcast, which reminds us that each voice matters – whether solo or in a chorus. Robeson's example as a global citizen encourages the spirit of collaboration and partnership. As such, the gallery represents a broad community and everybody gets a seat at the table. The gallery empowers artists and engages visitors to consider various aesthetic, political, and social attitudes and values.

**IN RECENT YEARS PRG HAS EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM SMALLER GALLERIES, TO A BEAUTIFUL NEW SPACE AT EXPRESS NEWARK IN THE HAHNE'S BUILDING. PLEASE TELL US A BIT ABOUT THIS PROCESS AND SOME OF THE GOALS THE GALLERY HAD IN EXPANDING?**

*Joseph Sabatino, Head Preparator:* I've collaborated with PRG for over ten years as an artist, arts educator, freelance preparator and most recently - a full time staff member of Express Newark. Having first-hand exposure to the systematic progressions, I've been fortunate to experience the crucial expansion in our outreach to both the students and overall, local, arts community.

The developments that continue to spread geographically nearby and hopefully beyond our walls are only validated by our core goals that have been steady since the onset. The natural evolution merging public awareness, education and creativity would not occur without the collaboration of sought out artists, cutting edge artwork, voluminous spaces and relevant content of our exhibition roster. Whether casually walking the corridors of campus grounds or engaging in the communal dispersion of diversified, contemporary works in a modern pentagon-like space; the partnership with the general public will remain strong. With the recent addition of our fresh, state of the art facility and gallery, PRG at Express Newark is sure to influence and engage the region as our growth simultaneously looks to inspire.

**WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE THEMES YOU ADDRESS IN YOUR EXHIBITIONS?**

*Jacqueline Mabey, Curatorial Assistant:* PRG's program aims

to reckon with our culture by approaching it from a variety of angles. Curated by both PRG staff and by members of the community, the themes range from the topical matters, referencing contemporary social and political events, as well as more universal subjects, like food or the natural world.

**WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE CHALLENGES IN CREATING EXHIBITIONS ACROSS SO MANY SPACES THAT ADDRESS SUCH A DIVERSE AUDIENCE?**

*Anonda Bell, Director & Chief Curator:* I believe that the challenges that the PRG faces are less to do with the logistical concerns about how to maintain multiple physical sites across the Rutgers University Campus and more to do with broader issues for the arts within society. Artists endeavor to live imaginative and sustainable lives within an environment that is not always nurturing. Creativity is certainly not valued in the way that other skills are. Financial remuneration rarely is substantial enough for an individual to live from their art practice alone. The importance of creativity within an education context is widely recognized, yet STEM programs are favored within schools. Research has shown that education we provide for future generations should be to foster creative ways of thinking and problem solving, rather than rote learning of facts. The world is changing so rapidly that the ability to nurture agile minds should be the sign of success. Paul Robeson once said, "Artists are the gatekeepers of the truth." The arts have a role to play in society which does not just reflect the status quo. Art may instead be speculative and generative. It may shape the way that we exist, in states of plurality and diversity. The Robeson Galleries does not aspire to produce definitive exhaustive or encyclopedic exhibitions. We are instead interested in working with many creative individuals and organizations. We are committed to creating programs which reflect multiple, simultaneous truths.

**EXPRESS NEWARK IS A FACET OF RUTGERS THAT IS ROOTED IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: HOW IS THE NEW PRG SITE CULTIVATED COMMUNITY-ORIENTED EXHIBITION PROGRAM?**

*Bryant Lebron, Administrative Assistant:* Community organization is one of the staples of the Paul Robeson Galleries' mission and with Express Newark that mission will continue. Through collaborative efforts, exhibition programming is not just for the community but by the community alongside native Newark Artists and Educators. To embody the idea of being of Newark and not just in.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Director & Chief Curator Anonda Bell, Associate Director of Programs Caren King Choi, Program Assitant Amalia Mallard and Administrative Assistant Bryant Lebron

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.artgallery.newark.rutgers.edu)

**CAN YOU REFLECT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JAMES VAN DER ZEE'S LEGACY ON WHAT SHINE DOES NOW, AND HIS IMPACT ON NEWARK?**

For those who are unaware, James VanDerZee had his first professional photography job in 1911 in the Hahne & Co., department store, where the Shine is now based. During the approximately year-long time VanDerZee worked and lived in Newark, it's reported that he was popular with customers. After this time, he moved to Harlem where he lived and worked more famously for nearly the rest of his professional career. When comparing VanDerZee's images to other historically significant photographers who documented life in Harlem -- for example, someone like Aaron Siskind -- they have very different perspectives. While Siskind's vision was socially concerned he had a removed gaze, whereas the intimate perspective of VanDerZee is the legacy that has shaped Shine as a project.

**SHINE IS A COMMUNITY CENTERED PHOTO STUDIO, AND THAT MEANS SO MUCH MORE THAN PROVIDING FREE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS. BESIDES ACCESS TO FACILITIES, WHAT IS THE LARGER GOAL IN COMMUNITY SHAPING THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY?**

As an artist working on Shine in a socially-engaged context, I'm interested in nurturing projects that capture the imagination in contemporary art world conversations, but also in serving a practical social need to the communities in which I'm based professionally. So, as a project Shine is nimble, performative and site-responsive, guiding projects like Deborah Willis' *Newark's Closets...*, but it also occupies real estate and has great technical resources of staff and equipment to support others ideas. Shine is both a metaphorical and physical space, to experience art and to make it.

**HOW DO YOU SEE PHOTOGRAPHY, SPECIFICALLY PORTRAITURE, AS A CONDUIT TO POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT?**

*How can individuals be equal citizens of the world if they're treated as less than?* The current cover of Vogue magazine depicting Beyoncé was photographed by Tyler Mitchell, the first African American to create a cover image in the publication's 125-year history. A former student of Shine artist-in-residence Deborah Willis, Tyler talks about the importance of inspiring and providing opportunities for younger, emerging "concerned" photographers. Going back

to my answer to your first question, it matters profoundly for shaping communities who is holding the camera, framing the story, who is seeing, and how their subjects are being seen.

**NEXT YEAR, THE CONCEPT OF SHINE WILL BE FIVE YEARS OLD! WHAT DO YOU FORESEE IN SHINE'S FUTURE FIVE YEARS DOWN THE LINE?**

Actually, I came up with the concept in 2007, intending it for a different location, but the proposal sat dusty until Chancellor Nancy Cantor arrived. It was opened in 2017 with Express Newark. What still gives me goosebumps is that my first proposal featured a portrait by VanDerZee, way before knowing about his history with Newark. As long as I can keep focused on working with other artists and curators to imagine and realize new projects, while balancing the practical needs that the studio provides for the community and my students, then I foresee the project continuing.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST POPULAR PUBLIC PROGRAM OR PUBLIC RESOURCE SO FAR?**

I think the most popular public resource has been free access to the studio, equipment and technical support for Newark-based and/or artists working on projects invested in the community. Certainly Deborah Willis' and Kalia Brooks-Nelson's project and opening reception, that was timed with Carrie Mae Weems L+M lecture at Express Newark, brought Shine to life, in another, special way. I think something more powerful, genuine and felt was an undercurrent that night.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN RUNNING SUCH A PUBLIC FACING/PUBLIC ORIENTED SPACE?**

I think people may get frustrated trying to reserve the studio because it's so frequently booked-up, but Shine is not only the space and equipment, it is a contemporary art project, with overlapping components that prevent it from being exclusive to one type of activity.

*Image:* A portrait from a series produced during the opening of Deborah Willis' *In Pursuit of Beauty: Imaging Closets in Newark and Beyond*. Shine open the studio to attendees, celebrating Willis' work and audience.

*Image Credit:* Courtesy of Shine Portrait Studio

*Website:* [www.shineportrait.com](http://www.shineportrait.com)



**SHINE PORTRAIT STUDIO**  
54 HALSEY ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*SHINE VISIONARY NICK KLINE SPEAKS ON  
PORTRAITURE AS A CONDUIT TO COMMUNITY*





**THE NEWARK MUSEUM**

49 WASHINGTON ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*NEWARK MUSEUM LEADERSHIP ON  
CURATORIAL, COLLECTIONS AND COMMUNITY*

**TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR HISTORY WITH THE MUSEUM AND HOW IT'S EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS THAT YOU'VE BEEN THERE.**

*Interim Co-Director and Chief Curator Emeritus Ulysses Dietz:*

The museum I came to in 1980 is long gone. In 1980 we were physically and psychologically the same museum we had been since 1948. The collections had grown massively, but the building was stuck in the past. The new Michael Graves master plan building that was completed in 1989 opened all of our eyes to what our potential was—maybe for the first time since the Bamberger building opened in 1926. Since then, under Sam Miller and Mary Sue Price, we have come to realize exactly what we truly are: one of the greatest art collections in the United States, and New Jersey's own treasure house of global culture.

**THE MUSEUM IS A TREASURE TROVE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS! CAN YOU SHARE A FEW FAVORITE WORKS THAT MIGHT NOT REGULARLY BE ON VIEW?**

Because we don't have the exhibition space for more than 5% of our collections at any one time, it's hard to think of just a few. There's a Ming Dynasty lacquered wine table from China (17th century) that is one of maybe three in the world. And we have an amazing Portuguese topaz necklace from the 1750s, the only one in an American museum. And of course we have the greatest collection of African trade cloth in the country—none of these are on view right now, although we hope to have them in the galleries in the future.

**THE NEWARK MUSEUM IS NOT ONLY HOME TO VISUAL ARTS, BUT ALSO A SPACE DEDICATED TO SCIENCE. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE BOTH SCIENCE AND VISUAL ART IN THE SAME SPACE?**

Since the Museum's founding, our art and science collections have offered different ways to explore and make sense of the world around us. In the recent *Rockies & Alps* exhibition, visitors saw how painters captured spectacular images of the mountains, and also experienced the power of plant and rock specimens to provide perspectives on the natural world. We are looking forward to a new fall commission for the planetarium; Kambui Olujimi's full-dome presentation of *Wayward North* will offer his creative, contemporary mythological vision based on actual star charts. And in our MakerSPACE and throughout our collections, we encourage visitors to consider the ways that traditional and digital technologies have provided new tools, inspiration and challenges for artists and makers.

**YOUR CURRENT CO-DIRECTOR ULYSSES GRANT DIETZ HAS HAD A LONG AND WONDERFUL HISTORY WITH THE MUSEUM. CAN YOU SHARE WITH US A BIT ABOUT SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CAREER AS CURATOR OF DECORATIVE ARTS, AND CHIEF CURATOR?**

The two greatest moments in his curatorial career were the Newark jewelry exhibition and book in 1997— *The Glitter and the Gold: Fashioning America's Jewelry*, which told the world about the time when Newark made 90% of the gold jewelry in America; and the restoration and reinterpretation of the Ballantine House and its "House & Home" galleries in 1994. Even 24 years later, it is still one of the most cutting-edge historic houses in the entire country, even as we are looking to updating it with 21st-century technology and further preserve its historic structure.

**CAN YOU SPEAK TO THE NEWARK MUSEUM EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ARTS COMMUNITY? RECENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO NURTURE NEWARK ARTISTS AND YOUTH?**

The Museum supports local artists by periodically organizing group exhibitions that bring in local artists. The Museum also supports local artists by collaborating with other Newark arts institutions, by supporting their exhibition programs, attending studio visits, and by making the Museum's collections available for study by artists, curators, and scholars.

The Museum also supports local artists through frequent collaboration on adult public programs. During two of our flagship programs (*Late Thursdays* and *Second Sundays*) we always have an art-making activity and very often, we bring in local artists to develop and/or facilitate such activities. These programs also include talks, lectures and panels. This past May we organized our first annual *Late Thursdays: Art Remix* event which invited 6 local artists to reinterpret an image from the Museum's collection in a friendly competition. The artists received exposure, compensation, and professional development with the top three popular vote winners receiving portfolio reviews with noted curators from the Museum and Columbia University. We also support local artists through our community partnerships with local arts organizations, adult courses and workshops.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* *Arts of Global Africa* Gallery featuring works of Ayana V Jackson, Simone Leigh, El Anatsui and more.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org)



## **TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE INSPIRATION AND ORIGINS OF THE ANIMODULES™.**

Our inspiration for the Animodules™ was our encounter with a sculpture entitled *Mama's Wings*, created by local artist and Newark Public School art teacher, Terry Brewin. The sculpture was of a phoenix and dedicated to a mother who had died of AIDS. The sculpture spoke tenderly to us, as we were also dealing with HIV/AIDS, Gary being a long time survivor.

The sculpture which was 18" high, was composed by slotting together two flat planes to create a third dimension. We were amazed at the beauty and simplicity of the piece, and contacted the artist.

From that moment Terry Brewin joined the team. At the time we were holding after school arts education programs for children from the Newark Housing Projects. These children became our first student artists. We found a local cardboard manufacturer to donate 8' x 4' sheets of cardboard, and we began creating huge sculptures based on Terry's model. These first hand-crafted giant artworks proudly marched with the children and youth that created them in the first *Creation Nation Newark Arts Parade* in 2008. From humble beginnings in cardboard and glue, a Newark tradition was born.

## **THE BF CREATION NATION HAS HAD A LONG AND IMPORTANT LEGACY IN NEWARK. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENCHMARK HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR NOW 21 YEAR OLD PROGRAMS?**

We began our venture into arts education with a French language, culture, and art immersion program in the South of France. For us, this would be a second career, hastened by Gary's life-threatening bout with HIV in the early 1990's. At that time HIV/AIDS was a death sentence. We had founded a natural foods company, Legume, Inc., which we took public in the 1980's. After Gary's diagnosis, not knowing how long we would have together, and wanting our two young daughters to experience the opening of mind and heart that Chandri experienced studying in Paris, we decided to change direction, leave the food business, and venture off to France. We exchanged our house for an apartment in the South of France for the summer and Chandri began to develop a month-long summer immersion program in Provence for high school students. Gary was able to re-immense himself in fine art photography to fulfill a life-long dream of being an artist. As Chandri is a scholarship and fellowship kid whose focus has always been "leveling the playing field for underserved youth", we decided to form a 501 (C) 3 not for profit corporation in

order to be able to raise funds for scholarship students, and create a more inclusive and diverse student body.

Fast forward 20 years: the program to date has some 400 graduates. Of our 60 summer scholarship students, 100% have gone on to college; an amazing track record in Newark where fewer than 18% of the city's residents have any post secondary education. In 2015, we named our summer scholarship program after Newark born artist and friend, Willie Cole.

We came to Newark in 2005 and shortly thereafter had the great good fortune to be gifted a huge 13,000 sq. ft. space for over 8 years in the heart of the downtown, by a Newark realtor who had seen our French program brochure. It was from here that we would begin our community based arts education programming. We began to understand that if we can transform young lives in a month in Provence, imagine what we can accomplish in Newark with the remaining 11 months of the year.

It is from this gifted space in downtown Newark that we first created the Animodule form, the PEACE mural, and the Creation Nation Art & Peace Parade, which recently celebrated its 12th year, involving thousands of Newark children and youth. At the end of our 8 year residency on Broad Street in Newark, we were again blessed with our current gallery and office space at One Gallery, One Gateway, granted by Onyx Realty, where our 100 ft. of windows display the work of hundreds of Newark children and youth and their Animodule creations.

## **THE BF CREATION NATION HOSTS A FABULOUS PARADE EVERY YEAR! CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS EVENT AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO THE ARTS COMMUNITY, BUT TO THE WIDER NEWARK AUDIENCE?**

Shortly after our first seeing Terry Brewin's interlocking sculpture, *Mama's Wings*, the Newark Arts Council held a meeting asking members of the arts community for ideas to publicize the city's Open Doors Arts Festival. Inspired by our daughter, Athena's, resoundingly successful, "This Town Needs a Parade", an art parade held at Rutgers New Brunswick to bring the university's Mason Gross School of the Arts into its surrounding community, we immediately replied, "Let's have an Arts parade!"

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Chandri and Gary Barat in the BF Creation Nation Headquarters at One Gateway Center surrounded by Animodules™ and local youth artworks.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.baratfoundation.org](http://www.baratfoundation.org)





**BF CREATION NATION**

43 RAYMOND PLAZA W., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*CHANDRI & GARY BARAT ON LIFE & THEIR FAMILY'S  
DEDICATION TO PEACE THROUGH THE ARTS*





## INDEX ART CENTER 237 WASHINGTON ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*IAC CO-DIRECTOR LOWELL CRAIG ON A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM & CHANGING TIMES*

### INDEX ART CENTER (IAC) IS GOING TO BE TEN YEARS OLD IN 2019! WHAT PROMPTED YOU INITIALLY TO OPEN UP THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM?

Initially we started as RedSaw Gallery in 2005 at 585 Broad St. I was really inspired by the exhibitions that I had seen at Lux Magna. Amongst all of the work, I was really intrigued by the performance pieces by artists like Dave Lancet and Stephen Hutchins. When we started, I had a studio at 31 Central and at 585 Broad Street. There were four studios at 585 Broad Street at that point. In addition to me, there was my friends Seth Goodwin, Sebastian Patane, Lee Wells, and Matt DiLeo. Before the group of us were there, the vibe was different. There was a guy that had an underground nightclub in one spot, and a Limo

guy that had an office (which later turned into Kedar Gallery). And of course there was an empty space (which later became RedSaw/Index). The empty space was in horrible shape. It was filled up to the ceiling with garbage. At some point someone affiliated with NJPAC somehow got a hold of the landlord, and attempted to move into the space. He got a few dumpsters and completely emptied out the space. Then suddenly, He was gone- disappeared. No one knew what happened to him. So there it was, a clean, empty space: it was clear that it had to be a gallery! Asha Ganpat, Dave Smith, Seth Goodwin and I got to work and opened RedSaw just in time for the 2005 Open Doors Gallery Crawl. In early 2009 RedSaw closed and Index opened in the same space. In 2013, four years in, there was a massive fire at 585. And now, five years after that here we are!

### WHERE DID THE FILMVIDEO PROGRAM COME FROM? WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE FILMS/VIDEOS YOU'VE SCREENED IN THE PAST?

*Filmvideo* started with RedSaw in 2006. I was always inspired by a film festival that made the rounds to our University called the *Black Maria Film Festival*. The program has been around for over a decade, with 2018 being the first time we took a hiatus. I hope to bring it back in 2019, because it's one of my favorite events to host. Over the past ten plus years IAC has screened well over 10,000 independent films and videos of varying budgets and concepts. Looking back, I can't pick a favorite- I've loved them all!

### IAC HAS A FAIRLY DIVERSE RESIDENCY AND EXHIBITION PROGRAM AS FAR AS DISCIPLINES GO. WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT HAVING SUCH A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY/ MULTI-MEDIA FRIENDLY SPACE?

Having a multidisciplinary program and space is important because art is made up of so many different disciplines. Every form is interconnected. At Index, we try to be as open and intersecting as possible. We do have some practical limitations, because we have 8' high walls with open ceilings. We try to accommodate as much diversity as we can, while still maintaining an environment that works well for everyone.

### WHAT CHANGES OR CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE COMING UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE LARGER NEWARK ARTS COMMUNITY?

Developers and Gentrification. I worry that the same forces that helped create us- might destroy us. Although it may be helpful for what ever organizations that can survive rental hikes, etc.

*Image:* Index Art Center's co-director Lowell Craig stands in front of the building that houses IAC's gallery, event space and residencies.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez  
*Website:* [www.indexartcenter.org](http://www.indexartcenter.org)



## **ARTFRONT GALLERIES** VARIOUS LOCATIONS CITYWIDE

### *VACANT SPACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE*

#### **WHAT PROMPTED THE BIRTH OF ARTFRONT GALLERIES?**

Started in 2013, Artfront Galleries has grown from a loose coalition of working Newark artists to a NJ Non Profit Corporation with 501(c)(3) status in 2016. Artfront Galleries draws its inspiration from Eric S. Raymond's *The Cathedral and The Bazaar*, the 1863 *Salon des Refuses*, and Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Artfront Galleries promotes pop up art galleries that serve as a transformative social and educational tool in Newark neighborhoods outside the city center.

#### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FILL VACANT SPACES WITH ART? HOW DOES ART CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE?**

The Artfront Galleries' blueprint begins with persuading landlords in depressed neighborhoods to loan us their empty spaces for at least 30 days. The landlord wins by showing their space activated to potential renters/buyers. The pedestrian traffic visiting the gallery is a win for the neighborhood with decreased crime rates and increased commerce for local businesses. Residents with few opportunities to experience art have access to enriching cultural experiences, Perhaps, most importantly, talented artists who have not been selected by the local arts center have opportunity to show and sell their work.

#### **HAVING BEEN AT THIS FOR A WHILE, WHAT IS SOME ADVICE THAT YOU MIGHT GIVE TO OTHER COMMUNITIES/ CITIES LIKE NEWARK THAT HAVE SPACES TO ACTIVATE?**

The arts community needs to realize that they cannot be dependent on the center for approval, fiscal aid, space or promotion. The individual artists and arts groups need to learn how to operate independently. Famously, Manet, Cezanne and Latour were found unacceptable by the 1863 Paris Salon. Where is the Paris Salon, the Academie, now?

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Storefront at 1 Bloomfield Place

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.artfrontgalleries.com](http://www.artfrontgalleries.com)



**ART & ARTIFACTS OF NEWARK**  
237 WASHINGTON ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

**CoAD GALLERY AT NJIT**  
WESTON HALL, NEWARK, NJ 07102

*A&AN / CO-AD GALLERY DIRECTOR MATTHEW GOSSER  
SPEAKS ABOUT HIS PRACTICE AND HOW THAT INFORMS  
HIS CURATORIAL DIRECTION*

**YOU ARE AN ARTIST, AN ARCHITECT, RESEARCHER AND ORGANIZER. CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE PRIOR TO ART & ARTIFACTS NEWARK, AND THE CO-AD GALLERY? WOULD YOU SHARE A PAST EXHIBITION OR PROJECT THAT YOU FEEL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR CURATORIAL APPROACH?**

In my early career, I worked for an architecture firm that rehabilitated older buildings in the NY metro area. As I was measuring the interiors, taking photos and trying to figure out how to adaptively re-use the space, I fell in love with the textures of old dilapidated things. That led to exploring abandoned buildings on my own in NY, Newark, California and Europe, taking black and white photos and exhibiting them in fine art galleries. To add more context to these photographic series, I'd do historical research and collect artifacts, especially if the sites were being demolished. Soon after, I started to create collages, sculptures and furniture designs out of those salvaged artifacts and organized group exhibits that dealt with specific, culturally significant sites in Newark such as the Pabst Brewery, Westinghouse Factory, Paramount Theater, Essex County Jail, and others.

**ART & ARTIFACTS NEWARK IS A FAIRLY NEW VENTURE. WHAT WAS THE IMPETUS FOR FOUNDING IT?**

I've been exploring abandoned Newark buildings and collecting artifacts from them for over 20 years. I literally have tons and tons of objects that occupy several storage areas in Newark and Paterson. Art & Artifacts began as a way to display and (more importantly) get rid a portion of my collection of Newark-related artifacts. I also really enjoy operating a storefront gallery in downtown Newark with a consistent street presence which allows me to meet all sorts of people who also have a love of and/or personal attachment to Newark. Young Newarkers may not know what half the artifacts are but they're interested in learning. And older Newarkers share interesting stories every time an artifact triggers memories of their childhood.





## WHAT ARE A COUPLE OF YOUR FAVORITE ARTIFACTS THAT ARE PRESENTLY ON DISPLAY?

One of my favorite artifacts is a very early security system that I salvaged from the Westinghouse Factory. It's based off of ticker-tape technology and looks like a series of industrial jewelry boxes with faceted glass, hand cranks and lots of little gears. I also really love the old blueprints that I found in the debris of the Pabst Brewery. Most of them date back to the 1920's, when it was the Hoffman Beverage Co. There are building plans, bottle designs, conveyor layouts, fermentation tanks, delivery truck designs.... basically every object at the brewery was designed and fabricated on-site. Conveyor parts that I salvaged and turned into a chair are represented on several of these blueprints that I found.

## IN ADDITION TO SHOWCASING LOCAL ARTIFACTS, YOU HAVE AN EXCITING ARRAY OF ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITIONS. HOW ARE THOSE ARTISTS SELECTED?

The main wall in the Art & Artifacts space is reserved for featured Newark artists. Every 2 months, I exhibit a different artist who has a strong connection to Newark (either lives or works in town) and who preferably creates work that references Newark in some way. So far, I've shown the work of Anker West, Luisa Pinzon, Malik Whitacker, Lisa Conrad, Kevin Darmanie and Stephen McKenzie. In the Fall, I'm excited to be exhibiting the work of Armisey Smith. Having been an artist and curator in Newark for the past two decades, I have personal relationships with most of the artists in town. I try to select artists that represent the diversity I love in the Newark art scene.... men, women, black, white, Latino, emerging, established.

## AS NEWARK IS RAPIDLY CHANGING, DO YOU HAVE HOPES ABOUT HOW ART & ARTIFACTS NEWARK PLAYS A ROLE IN SHARING THE HISTORY OF THIS CITY? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR AUDIENCE TO GAIN BY SPENDING TIME AT A&AN?

Many of my patrons come in to Art & Artifacts to get something to display in their local restaurant, office or home. People are starting to come to or come back to Newark and want something that represents Newark or reminds them of the Newark they used to know. I love the fact that Newark is making something of a comeback and I hope people take the time to learn more about this great city. From all the research that I've done, I know what a spectacular history Newark offers. If I can get some of this history back into the public realm, for people to enjoy while fostering a deeper respect for Newark, I don't mind letting go of some of my collection.



## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE CoAD GALLERY? IS THERE CROSS OVER BETWEEN YOUR PROGRAMS? HOW DOES IT DIFFER?

I've been the CoAD Gallery Director for 12 years. Our primary goal at CoAD Gallery is to provide our students with exhibitions related to the degree programs that we offer: architecture, digital design, industrial design, interior design and various fine arts media. Secondly, and where there is a cross-over with Art & Artifacts, we deal with issues relating to Newark. We are always attempting to bring aspects of Newark into NJIT and foster community relations within the downtown neighborhood that NJIT has been part of since 1884. We've created exhibits that highlight local landmarks such as the Pabst Brewery and Westinghouse Factory and local artists/architects such as Willie Cole and Richard Meier.

CoAD Gallery is an institutional venue so we don't focus on sales like Art & Artifacts of Newark has to. Also, Art & Artifacts is a much smaller venue and only hosts solo exhibits of Newark artists or Newark-inspired art.

*Image:* Matthew Gosser at Art & Artifacts Newark sharing objects and stories.

*Image Credit:* (Left Page) Anthony Alvarez (Above) Co-AD Gallery Courtesy of Matthew Gosser

*Website:* A&AN N/A | CoAD Gallery at NJIT: <http://design.njit.edu/news/galleries/>



## THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF NJ 145 BROADWAY, NEWARK, NJ 07104

MAX HERMAN ON NEWARK'S JEWISH HERITAGE

### YOU HAVE A FEW GREAT SHOWS OPENING THIS AUTUMN! CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE POP ART RABBI, YITZCHOK MOULLY?

Yitzchok Mouly is a conceptual artist whose work explores the intersection of spirituality and the material world we live in. Having grown up in Melbourne, Australia, with a few formative years in Hasidic Brooklyn, Mouly brings together the disparate colorful worlds of his hippie upbringing and Hasidic culture, resulting in a unique palette of colors and ideas. A Rabbi by training, Mouly served as a Youth Rabbi in Basking Ridge, NJ, for ten years before embracing his creative spirit. Dubbed ever since *The Pop Art Rabbi*, Mouly's work distills ethereal Chassidic concepts into relatable works of art.

### CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE BRIEF INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN NEWARK FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR?

Once home to over 50,000 Jews, Newark was the 4th largest Jewish community in the United States, and boasted more than 40 synagogues. Jews have lived in Newark since the 1700s. Famous Jewish Newarkers include Jerry Lewis, Ed Koch, Paul Simon, Harlan Coben, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, and Pulitzer Prize winning author Philip Roth. Newark's Weequahic neighborhood served as the setting for several of Roth's novels and short stories including *Good Columbus*, *American Pastoral* and *The Plot Against America*.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT JMNJ CONNECTS WITH THE NON-JEWISH COMMUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF THE HISTORY OF A JEWISH PRESENCE IN NEWARK?

Our exhibits and programs reflect a conscious effort to include the non-Jewish community in the surrounding neighborhood, which is comprised largely of Latinos and African Americans. We have held a series of conversations on African American and Jewish relations including a panel discussion on the legacy of the Newark riot/rebellion. Partnering with Congregation Ahavas Sholom, The Rutgers Jazz Studies Institute, NJPAC, and WBGO, we have presented exhibits on Jews, Jazz, and African Americans, and an upcoming exhibit on Latin Jazz which opens in November 2018. We have also partnered with the Italian community on a series of programs honoring Italians who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. In addition we have hosted an annual art exhibit from students from the Sussex Avenue Renew School. Finally, we have opened our doors for annual exhibits of local artists under the banner of *Strong Men and Strong Women*.

### WHAT ARE SOME EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST TEN YEARS OR SO?

Our most attended exhibited was *Weequahic Memoirs* an exhibit curated by the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, celebrating the legendary high school and neighborhood. Last year we curated our first exhibit *Synagogues of Newark* in conjunction with the 350th Anniversary of the City of Newark. The exhibit opened at the JMNJ and will reopen at the Newark Public Library this fall.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Synagogue at the Jewish Museum of NJ

*Image Credit:* Matthew Gosser

*Website:* [www.jewishmuseumnj.org](http://www.jewishmuseumnj.org)





## **THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY** 5 WASHINGTON ST., NEWARK, NJ 07101

*NPL ON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY*

### **THE NPL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS HAS AN INCREDIBLY DIVERSE AND UNIQUE ARRAY OF PRINTS AND WORKS ON PAPER. WHAT IS THE OLDEST WORK YOU HAVE?**

Actually, the earliest collections are not limited to paper. John Cotton Dana was very interested in the origins of writing, so we own a collection of archaeological specimens, the earliest of which may be Sumerian cuneiform tablets from around 2000 BCE. We do also have some text on papyrus, including fragments of the Egyptian Book of the Dead from 1500 BCE.

### **WHAT IS THE ACQUISITION PROCESS? HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT WORK TO BRING INTO THE COLLECTION?**

Materials are acquired via donations, bequests, and purchases. Fortunately, we have developed rewarding relationships with dealers, artists, and collectors and this has enabled us to add valuable works which we may not have been able to afford. Additionally, works are acquired by searching upcoming auctions, contacting dealers, attending the annual Print Fair in New York, and by visiting local venues such as Gallery Aferro and the Newark Print Shop.

### **CAN YOU GIVE US A FEW SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FOLLOWING THREE COLLECTIONS: THE ISLAMIC AND ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS, THE BARACK OBAMA ELECTION AND INAUGURATION COLLECTION, AND THE WILLIAM J. DANE COLLECTION?**

The Islamic Manuscripts Collection contains many intricate works, including a Qu'ran from 1120 AD which contains beautiful calligraphy and gold ornamentation. We could not omit mentioning the Burmese olas (written on palm leaves) or the Chinese miniature manuscript which colorfully depicts a Buddhist ceremony on a leaf from the Bodhi, or sacred wild fig, tree.

The Barack Obama collection was created in order to document this event and consists mostly of clippings and commemorative editions of Time and Newsweek.

The William J. Dane Fine Prints Collection contains over 25,000 works on paper, so it is challenging to select even a few treasures to highlight. The collection includes works by artists over the last several centuries, including art by Warhol and Picasso, a very rare ambrotype of Abraham Lincoln from 1860, hundreds of Japanese prints from 1780 to the present, and a remarkable collection of prints from Puerto Rico by noted artists such as Lorenzo Homar, Rafael Tufiño, Antonio Martorell, Luis Cajiga, and Nelson Sambolín.

### **WHAT ARE SOME EXCITING VISUAL ARTS RELATED PROGRAMS THAT WE CAN EXPECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE?**

In terms of exhibitions, we are working on a joint exhibit with the Newark Museum which will commemorate our anniversaries (130 years of NPL and 110 years of the Newark Museum). This show will open in mid-January here at the Main Library. Later in 2019, the Library will host the 85th Annual exhibition of the Society of American Graphic Artists (SAGA). We are also in the process of collaborating with art faculty at Rutgers on upcoming programs, but those details have not been finalized.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Main Branch Newark Public Library

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.jewishmuseumnj.org](http://www.jewishmuseumnj.org)



## **PROJECT FOR EMPTY SPACE**

2 GATEWAY CENTER, NEWARK, NJ 07102

*CO-DIRECTORS JASMINE & REBECCA SHARE STORIES  
OF PES' HISTORY & JOURNEY- NOMADIC TO NEWARK*



## **PES STARTED IN AN EMPTY LOT IN NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE. TELL US ABOUT THE 'EARLY DAYS'**

Project for Empty Space didn't start out as a concrete organization: it started out as a hair brained exhibition idea between two former commercial-gallery girls, Meenakshi Thirukode and Jasmine Wahi. We were both navigating through the residual fall out of the 2008 financial crisis, and deeply dissatisfied with the commercial art world (probably in some part because we had both lost our jobs during the crisis). There was so much vacant and neglected space around us, so we thought, why not do a understated and community oriented public art project. Organizations like No Longer Empty (NLE) and Chashama were already occupying empty commercial spaces: we were interested in doing a one off project in very low profile, outdoor space. Through a series of very fortunate events, and sheer dumb luck we ended up with a space at 181 Stanton Street between Clinton and Attorney in the Lower East Side, which is where I was living at the time. We did a Kickstarter campaign (this was very early in the crowd funding era) and raised about \$5,000. Then we put out an Open Call to solicit proposals directly responding to the history of the neighborhood. From the call we selected Tehniyet Masood, a Pakistani American artist with a background in architecture and a love of architectural history and memory. Tehniyet created an installation using reclaimed wood from around the neighborhood and from Build It Green. The piece reflected the architectural history of the neighborhood from its heyday to the tenement era through the depression, the stock market crash of the 1980s, through the present. She worked day and night for almost three weeks, getting input, feedback, and coffee from other people in the neighborhood. Resplendent in hues of deep brick to emerald green, the final piece was a masterful life-size diorama. People described it as a historic playground and a Barbie Dreamhouse for the Lower East Side.

## **TODAY PES IS A NONPROFIT RUN BY WOMEN. HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN FEMALE RUN? WHY?**

We started out as two women with an idea. Along the way we encountered other great women. I don't know if it was conscientious or intentional at first. We are all feminists and very invested in the idea of women collaborating and supporting each other, but having a leadership structure oriented around women, again, just happened very organically. Once we recognized some of the undertones and implications of being 'femme-centric' in our leadership, we took it upon ourselves to actively integrate that into our best practices and programming. Our Feminist incubator program grew out of this feminist orientation and idea of women supporting women. We are certainly not opposed to including cis-men into our staff or leadership, many of our board

members identify as male, as do many of our artists. It's been partially coincidental that we keep working with female identified persons within our small but tight knit staff!

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST 3+ YEARS SINCE RE-OPENING WITH A NEW SPACE IN 2015?**

It's so hard to choose! We love every single one of our projects: they're all our babies. Here's a few:

The first time we were actually able to pay ourselves, #nonprofitfounder, haha! Just kidding. It's really hard to choose. Derrick Adams 'pool party' during his exhibition *Culture Club*, when we all sat around in huge pool floats in the gallery and simply revelled in the joy of being. It was a moment of happiness as activism.

Another moment was David Antonio Cruz's performance of *Greenhowiwantyougreen* in the gallery, with a full cast.

The Women's March- our first iteration of the Feminist Incubator Space where we took nearly twenty women from the arts community down to Washington DC and took to the streets. We stayed with Jasmine's parents, the Wahis, for three days, and took to the streets in a glorious collective moment of power and solidarity. This was a moment that really solidified a lot of aspects of our mission, not only as a feminist organization, but as an organization that is ever self-critical and critical of society, and pro-equity along all lines and intersections. Also it was one of the most fun experiences we've had in a long time.

## **WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?**

You shall have to wait and see! We are planning on bringing back our nomadic programs, as well as collaborations with other social justice oriented organizations. We have two new artists in residence, who, by the time this comes out, will have been announced (it's Amy Khoshbin and Victoria Udonian!) and we're gearing up for a really robust Feminist Incubator program that provides more resources and opportunities to Feminist artists. Rebecca is also starting a very exciting new component of the Fem Inc. program, which is a publishing workshop oriented around motherhood and new moms.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Project for Empty Space gallery located at 2 Gateway Center- with the work of 2016 Artist in Residence, jc lenochan on view.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.projectforemptyspace.org](http://www.projectforemptyspace.org)



## **CAN YOU SHARE WITH US THE STORY OF GLASSROOTS? WHAT PROMPTED YOUR FOUNDER PAT KETTENRING TO DEVELOP SUCH A UNIQUE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS A RESOURCE FOR NEWARK?**

After visiting Tacoma's Hilltop Artists in Residence in 1998, GlassRoots' founder Pat Kettenring envisioned creating a studio for Newark area youth ages 10 to 18 to provide glassmaking and business skills to underserved youth who had too few opportunities to become stronger, wiser and more talented young people. The paramount goal of GlassRoots, Inc. was to provide opportunities for achievement to underserved youth by engaging them in the creation of glass art and the development of entrepreneurial and life skills. GlassRoots began in 2001 engaging 100 youth ages 10-13. Today we serve over 3000 youth, young adults and adults annually; growing from afterschool programming; expanding programs by adding formal training in color, form, spatial concepts; joining art and STEM education in both practical and creative ways; and adding programs that develop knowledge and skills for youth and adults to succeed in an entrepreneurial economy; and outgrowing our current space.

## **TELL US A BIT ABOUT HOW GLASS BLOWING IS IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TOGETHERNESS.**

GlassRoots served over 4000 individuals last fiscal year from throughout NJ. Research suggests, and our programs confirm, that a continuing net of support for disadvantaged students is likely to significantly improve their academic outcomes and reduce the wide gaps in achievement that exist.

It follows that under these conditions, students will be more likely to graduate from high school and successfully prepare for college. Our programs use the magic of glass to engage and transform; to bring out talents and creativity, to help students see futures for themselves, to give them important life skills and practical skills, and to create connections (with our staff, with social work and other services, with potential employers and educators.) We can't imagine more important outcomes.

## **YOU HAVE THREE KEY STAFF MEMBERS THAT WERE ONCE GR STUDENTS- WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE PROGRAM THAT PROMPTED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR CAREER PATH ALONGSIDE OF THE SPACE?**

*Previous Student/Current Staff Member, Yazmine Graham:* The old saying, "It's not work if you like what you do" is pretty much what I live by. I have worked multiple jobs since graduating from Arts High School in 2010, all of which have satisfied my needs in one way or another. But what makes GlassRoots stand out among all the other workplaces is ultimately what keeps me around; I get the opportunity to create art, work alongside the same people that taught me all that I know about glass, and give back to the community that I know and love. In addition to working at GlassRoots as part of the teaching staff I attend Kean University as an Architecture Design student. My schedule can be pretty hectic with balancing work and classes but GlassRoots has been supportive of my journey every step of the way! What started out as a place of learning for me is now a place I call home - it's pretty cool that I get paid for doing something I actually enjoy too.

*Previous Student/Current Staff Member, Amira Rogers:* Whenever I tell people that I'm an artist, their first question is, 'What type of art do you do'? In 2018 making the statement that you are an artist is so broad that it could mean anything from musician, to dancer, to visual artist, etc. I explain that I am a visual artist and list the types of mediums I work; glass is the one that leaves the biggest impression on people. It's such a unique skill to have. Working with glass on a daily basis gives me the opportunity to sharpen my skills, and keep that unique ability alive. It's a bonus that I get to do it at GlassRoots -- where I first learned the art of working in glass."

## **GLASSROOTS HAS AN EXTREMELY EXCITING 2019, WITH A NEW HOME ON THE FOREFRONT. CAN YOU SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR NEW LOCATION AND SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT WE MIGHT SEE?**

Through a partnership with the City of Newark, New Jersey Community Capital, Hanini Brothers, Crawford Street Partners and private and nonprofit investors, this project will renovate part of the Old St. Michael's Hospital, a dilapidated and long-vacant 1867 building. GlassRoots will occupy a dynamic 20,000+ square foot space and be an anchor tenant in the new Newark Arts Commons, collaborating with other educational and arts groups to catalyze the development of the entire neighborhood.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* Instructor Kate Dowd, with several students that are now acting staff members.

*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez

*Website:* [www.glassroots.org](http://www.glassroots.org)



## **GLASSROOTS**

10 BLEEKER ST, NEWARK, NJ 07102

*FROM STUDENTS TO STAFF, GLASSROOTS OFFERS OPPORTUNITY. WORDS FROM THE TEAM.*





**ALJIRA- A CENTER FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ART**  
591 BROAD ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102

*ALJIRA'S BOARD ON HISTORY,  
HIATUS & COLLABORATION*

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE STANDOUT HIGHLIGHT EXHIBITIONS FROM ALJIRA'S ILLUSTRIOUS 30 YEAR HISTORY?**

Given that Aljira was founded in 1986 (by Victor Davson and Carl Hazlewood), there are too many! But certainly one real highlight is the 2003 exhibition, *Bending the Grid: Black Identity and Resistance in the Art of Frank Bowling*, curated by Dorothy Désir. The *Bending the Grid* series was part of Aljira's core exhibition program that mounted solo exhibitions of artists who were over the age of 65 and underrecognized relative to their contribution to the field of contemporary art. Of course it's now exciting to see that Bowling will have a full retrospective at Tate Britain in 2019. That said, all of the annual exhibitions from the Emerge Program could make this list as well.

## **ALJIRA'S EMERGE PROGRAM HAS NURTURED THE CAREERS OF SO MANY OUTSTANDING ARTISTS. COULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT ITS ORIGIN AND IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR SUCH A PROGRAM? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CORE TOOLS THAT AN ARTIST LEAVES THE PROGRAM WITH?**

We hope to be able to re-start the Emerge Program, which has been one of the hallmark successes of Aljira. It was started in 1999, and over the years provided professional development opportunities for over 250 Emerge Artist Fellows. In addition to receiving career advice on the art business, studio management, the law, and other important issues that artists will confront over the course of their careers, the program culminated in a group exhibition curated by an invited guest curator, and published a catalog. Past fellows include artists like Jeffrey Gibson, Carrie Moyer, Chitra Ganesh, and Firelei Baez, just to name a few.

## **AS A VETERAN NEWARK INSTITUTION, WHAT ARE SOME TIPS YOU CAN GIVE TO YOUR FELLOW, MUCH YOUNGER ART SPACES?**

Do the best work you can as an organization while existing within your means. Don't hope or assume that money is going to come in from somewhere. You have to know where the money is, and then go and get it. It's not going to fall into your lap. Also, with changes in the tax law, not for profits don't really know how some traditional fundraising activities may have to change, or whether over the long-term there could be a difference in the giving patterns of some donors, so we all need to be mindful and consult with our tax advisors.

## **AT THE MOMENT, ALJIRA IS IN A STATE OF REORGANIZATION. COULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT THIS MEANS? WHAT ARE SOME EXCITING THINGS THAT YOU EXPECT TO COME OUT OF THE HIATUS?**

A hiatus is a break in continuity of time or space, and that's exactly what we imposed as a way to figure out how to move

forward after confronting some difficult realities – mostly financial, but also relating to major changes in the city of Newark itself. It has been clearly a difficult time for Aljira. However, this hiatus has forced us to take the time to be thoughtful and strategic about what to do next. Perhaps, this has been the silver lining in this period of reorganization.

Although we recognize that it will take tremendous effort our part and a lot of help from the Aljira community to make this happen, we expect to come out of this period not only with strong commitments and support, but also as a more nimble organization, which is so important now. We're excited to be re-dedicated to Aljira's mission in the arts, for artists, and in cultural and artistic education. We are re-dedicated to working with first-rate curators and artists from groups who still too frequently do not get the opportunity to organize shows and to show work in contemporary art spaces. And we are re-dedicated to staying in Newark. Within that frame, we're excited to focus on new ways to show work, both inside the gallery and out. We look forward to working with independent curators, and to finding more creative ways to use space.

## **FOR THIS YEAR'S NAF, ALJIRA HAS COLLABORATED WITH SHINE PORTRAIT STUDIO TO PRESENT WINDOW INSTALLATION *THE VISIBILITY PROJECT*, BY PHOTOGRAPHER SCHEHERAZADE TILLET. CAN YOU SPEAK TO THIS PROJECT'S IMPORTANCE AND COLLABORATIVE ASPECT WITH THE COMMUNITY?**

Aljira's first exhibition since its hiatus is *The Visibility Project*, which is also part of our larger participation in the *For Freedoms*, 50 State Initiative. It is also kind of an introduction, of scholar Salamishah Tillet and photographer and social justice organizer Scheherazade Tillet and their work with *A Long Walk Home*, a Chicago-based nonprofit. While these first images are of girls from Chicago, the project addresses shared societal issues across our state borders, and is moving forward for two years to engage fully with girls and women in Newark. Scheherazade inaugurated the *Girl/Friends Leadership Institute*, a yearlong artist-activist program that empowers girls and young women in Chicago to be social justice leaders in their schools, communities, and Chicago at large, and the idea is to create Newark-centered projects for similar purposes. *Girl/Friends* has been at the forefront of Chicago's recent protests against community, gender, and police violence, and is currently designing the *Rekia Boyd memorial project*, as part of their larger public arts program, *The Visibility Project*. Aljira, is excited to be the first to present *The Visibility Project* in Newark, and to continue to support this important social practice and photography-based art work.

*Full Interview:* Read at [www.newarkartsfestival.com](http://www.newarkartsfestival.com)

*Image:* *The Visibility Project* at Aljira

*Image Credit:* Shine Portrait Studio

*Website:* [www.aljira.org](http://www.aljira.org)





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# ▷ A WALL FOR US ALL- FAIRMOUNT

**BY SIDDHARTHA MITTER**

It was a mild April day, earlier this year. The scene was an industrial site: A switchyard—the thicket of machinery that takes high-voltage electricity and steps it down to the current you use when you turn on the lights.

Around the installation, which sprawled across a double-sized city block in Newark’s West Ward, ran an elegant wall. Its lower part was concrete, but the color of pink granite, streamlined with horizontal grooves. The upper part consisted of gold-toned aluminum panels with tiny perforations, through which the transformers appeared like ghostly skeletons, if you noticed them at all.

That was one part of the achievement. The other part was the art. Fourteen works of sculpture, mosaic, and other forms were spaced along the wall, facing the neighborhood. Resolutely modern, they would have made a strong gallery exhibition. But here they were permanent, crafted to withstand the elements, defining this place.

Six were the work of Newark artists: Willie Cole, world-renowned sculptor; Gladys Barker Grauer, doyenne of the city’s Black art scene; Jerry Gant, sculptor, muralist and Newark savant; Manny Acevedo, Kevin Darmanie, Kevin Sampson. The rest were by artists from Brooklyn, Cleveland, Florida—a group of world-class talents, diverse in age and background, with an orientation to community in their practice.

*Image:* Artist Gladys’s Grauer’s contribution to the wall. Installation captured by Raymond Spencer.



Curators Victor Davson, co-director of Express Newark and longtime champion of Newark arts, and Danny Simmons, founder of the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, selected the artists. As for the wall itself, and adjacent plaza—a natural gathering place with its striking red colonnade—their designer was David Adjaye, the influential British-Ghanaian architect, known in the U.S. for leading the design of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

All this local and global excellence assembled off West Market Street, in the shadow of the Georgia King Village towers, to a practical end: Turning a utility facility, necessary to strengthen Newark’s key infrastructure, from potential eyesore to community asset.

“We’ve finally figured out the trick,” Mayor Ras J. Baraka told the crowd gathered to unveil the Fairmount Art Wall. People have fretted over Newark’s revitalization for fifty years—the longest renaissance in history, Baraka joked. Here was a method that worked. “Collaboration, and the second thing is art. That’s the secret sauce.”

However you label it—revitalization, development, gentrification—Newark has accelerated its changes. Two decades of effort under three mayors—Sharpe James, Cory Booker, and since 2014, Baraka—has consolidated the renewal downtown. Prudential Financial has expanded its footprint, Audible and Panasonic are established, Whole Foods and Starbucks have shown up, there’s a beer garden in Military Park. A lot of spending power still leaves town at 5 p.m., but connoisseurs know to stick around. Crime is down. Condos are up. So is Newark’s image, suddenly becoming a brand.

Artists helped it happen. A constellation of Newark artists across the five wards stuck with the city in tough times, documented and expressed Newark life, reinforcing its pride and resilience. Then came fresh waves of artists, local and from elsewhere, who found in Newark’s vacated industrial and commercial buildings the space for experiments, for mutual support, for a community ethos. Index Art Center, Gallery Aferro, and Project for Empty Space are among the artist-built ventures that became, in their own way, Newark institutions, and helped radiate Newark’s creative life into the world.

According to a recent study, the non-profit arts sector in Newark generated a total economic impact of \$178 million in 2015. But that impressive aggregate says more about the industry as a whole—and big players like NJPAC and the Newark Museum—than about the actual lives of artists, or about sustained access to art for the city’s people. At ground level, the fabric can fray. This year, the community-focused gallery City Without Walls, established in 1973, has closed. Aljira, A Contemporary Center for the Arts, whose gallery and artist programs put Newark on the global contemporary-art map starting in 1983, has also shut for now, as it embarks on a transition. It’s not unusual for art spaces to close after a long run.



But if downtown Newark becomes the nexus of a high-rent enclave, financially and culturally insulated from the rest of the city, the art life will change as well—in demographics, collective purpose, and creative energy. That brings us back to Fairmount. For 20 years the site was moribund, home to the husk of a factory and a vacant church laced with asbestos. When news spread that PSE&G, the utility, had purchased the land to parachute a switchyard into a residential area, an outcry followed. The negotiations produced measurable commitments: local jobs, procurement, payments by the utility in lieu of taxes. But putting time and money into architecture and art, paying artists and curators, connecting them with residents in a collaborative design process—all this signals something intrinsic, the value of a place and its people.

Newark is still a high-poverty city despite pockets of prosperity. How will areas like Fairmount participate in its next phase, and on whose terms? The city government has made jobs and training for Newarkers a priority, in partnership with large employers. But land and space—who owns the city, what does it look like, whom does it welcome—can be more elusive to address. Art can play a micro-level, mitigating role in neighborhoods, as murals and other projects have done. Or it can aim for more.

The situation is clear. Newark is in a fortunate position: It has an economic growth dynamic, a proud cultural history, and a dynamic creative scene with national and global resonance that is still independent, alternative, and grassroots. You don't have to look far afield (hello, Brooklyn) to realize that window could quickly close.

The Art Wall, as both outcome and process, forms an example of successful integration of urbanism and art. It must be just the beginning. Self-reliance and self-determination are crucial—for instance through community land trusts, before outside interests take control via land-banking. There are other strategies that can connect artists and neighbors in communities of interest and affect. The city, if so minded, can offer a boost.

Inaugurating the Art Wall, Baraka—a poet, and the son of great radical artists—lauded the prospects it beckoned. “We work together, and we paint, and we build, and we draw, and we read poetry; we do all those things, and Newark is on fire again,” he said. Adjaye, the architect, was more measured. The project seemed unlikely at first, he said. And yet here was an elegant solution, instructive for the city at large. “The opportunity seemed complicated,” Adjaye said. “That’s when creativity has to rise to the opportunity.”

*Fairmount Art Wall Artists Include:* Aisha Tandiwe Bell, Antonio Perez Melero, Gladys Grauer, Jerry Gant, Kevin Blythe Sampson, Kevin Darmanie, Lisa C. Soto, Manuel Acevedo, Mike Radar, Musa Hixson, Otto Neals, Willie Cole, Xenobia Bailey and Ya La'Ford

**Siddhartha Mitter** writes on art, politics, and communities. He has reported from Newark for The Guardian, The Village Voice, The Nation, Al Jazeera, and WNYC.

# FAIRMOUNT ART WALL

VICTOR L. DAVSON, CO-DIRECTOR EXPRESS NEWARK  
PETER T. ENGLT, PRESIDENT, NEWARK ARTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Fairmount Art Wall is a loud and proud answer to the question: In contested times, how can people viewing the same events from very different perspectives be brought together to find a way forward?

Superstorm Sandy left no doubt that our community needed a more resilient power infrastructure. From 10,000 feet, the answer of a new switching station in Fairmount looked clear. On the ground, however, where people live their lives—lives too often undervalued—the answer was not at all clear.

We should not be surprised that art proved to be the vehicle for moving forward. Art urges us to drop our guard, examine deeply why we think what we think, reconceive our understanding in a new light, and create something new, something good that harnesses that light, a new reality.

That is precisely what the 14 brilliant artists and architect David Adjaye did in creating the Fairmount Art Wall. And it's precisely what PSEG, the Urban League, the City of Newark and all of our elected officials, and the residents of Fairmount did in arriving at this solution.

The result of that difficult soul searching, discourse, and deliberation is the embodiment of democracy. The Fairmount Art Wall is strikingly beautiful, one might even say electrifying.

And it all happened in Newark!



*Image:* Fairmount Art Wall opening  
*Image Credit:* Raymond Spencer



*Image:* (Left) Manuel Acevedo  
(Right) Mike Radar  
*Image Credit:* Anthony Alvarez





# ▷ PEOPLE THAT MAKE SPACES

The Newark Open Doors Studio Tour was established in 2001. It has been an annual opportunity to show the world that Newark has artistic champions. Over the past 17 years, the tour has changed tremendously- At one time the penthouses in the redeveloped Richardson Lofts held the spirited and inspiring *Lux Magna* Gallery. This year we say goodbye to 31 Central- A space that for decades was dedicated to artist workspace. Now- we find that pop ups exhibitions are held in corporate lobbies and challenges are presented in finding, or keeping affordable workspace.

One thing remains the same- a staple so to speak, the strength of the studio tour. Artists throughout the City “Open Their Doors,” to invite their fellow artists, locals enthusiasts, and visitors to explore their practice first hand.

This year’s studio tour includes 150+ participants. This section of the publication, the present, contains a small selection of soundbites from the vast array of artists and creatives that cultivate their practices in Newark. These voices are all part of a multifaceted and complicated symphony that makes this city so special.

## ANKER WEST

Ceramist and Architect  
Owner/Studio at the Dietze Building  
Working in Newark since 1976  
[www.ankerwest.com](http://www.ankerwest.com)

“The harshness of Newark impacts my work. A (post) industrial heat sink inspires me, any simple artistic gesture seems to mean more here than in lush locations.”





**COLLEEN GUTWEIN O'NEAL**

Photography

Resident Artist at Index Art  
Center, Community Partner-At-  
Large At Shine Portrait Studio  
Working In Newark Since 2006  
[www.newarkartsphtodoc.com](http://www.newarkartsphtodoc.com)



Utilizing vintage Jem Jr. box cameras manufactured in Newark in the 1940s, photographer Colleen Gutwein O'Neal captures artists' personalities in fuzzy, mysterious images that emerge against a backdrop of vanishing architecture, forgotten places and artists' workspaces threatened with demolition or redevelopment.

“Each artist I work with for *The Newark Artists Photo Documentary Project*, about 100 now, talks to me about their practice, their work, and their connection to both the community and the city. The stories span decades and generations, and include, displacement, destruction, rebirth and growth. I am attempting to capture this cross-section of what came before and what will come after through the community I am involved with as a working artist. The city and the visual artists working here are the inspiration for the last 5 years of my work.”



*Images:*

*Left:* Colleen Gutwein in her studio at Index Art Center, captured by Anthony Alvarez

*Above:* *Landscape* (2013)

*Next Page:* (Left to Right) *Jerry Gant* (2014), *Bisa Washington* (2015), *Layqa Nuna Yawar* (2014) and *Akintola Hanif* (2014)







HY



FEAR



**ANNE Q MCKEOWN**

Handmade Paper In 3D And 2D  
Studio at Gallery Aferro  
Working in Newark Since 2013  
[www.annemckeown.com](http://www.annemckeown.com)

"In the Summer of 2015 Newark Print Shop and Gallery Aferro with a Newark Arts Council Art Start Grant sponsored an event in August; *Paper in the Alley*. The one block long Campbell Street behind Gallery Aferro was closed one Sunday. A group of artists worked for weeks before preparing a 10' x 5' x 12" vat to sit in the middle of the street. 60" x 40" metal frames were covered with mesh. The covered frames were dipped one at a time into the water and pulp filled vat. They were then lifted out by 8 people, coated with a full sheet of paper. The dried sheets were used by a number of the participating artists for drawings and paintings. Children and adults joined in to make smaller sheets from pulp that was beaten down into a slurry from small squares cut from blue jean cotton in the big Valley Beater in the Newark Print Shop. Everyone who made paper that day was invited to come back to pick up the dried paper. The papermaking day was open to everyone in the community. Many people, artists and not, made the entire day fly by!"







### ADEBUNMI GBADEBO

Mixed Media, Human Hair  
Studio at PES STUDIOS  
Working in Newark since 2009  
[www.adebunmi.carbonmade.com](http://www.adebunmi.carbonmade.com)

"In 2013, I worked as the assistant of the late, Rodney Gilbert. When I started, I thought I was assisting Rodney with the Newark Mural Program, but I quickly found out I was assisting him with everything he did, and he did a lot!

He exposed me to theater, film, art education, the mural process, prose writing, curating, fundraising, all while still a freshman at NJIT. My first professional art exhibition was through the art exhibitions he used to organize every year for Newark Open Doors. He not only afforded me the opportunity to exhibit in my first show "Stigma," but I installed, selected the gallery space, wrote the curatorial statement, etc. Mr. Rodney knew the power of exposure and access. The arts was his activism and I carry that philosophy with me as I have grown as an art professional. Assisting Rodney was not only my most fondest memories related to the Newark art community, it was my most essential."





### JOSEPH O'NEAL

Painting/Mixed Media  
Studio at Index Art Center  
Working in Newark since 2013  
[www.josephoneal.com](http://www.josephoneal.com)

"There is magic in the peripheral. I think there is something to be said for working right outside of New York; arguably the most important art city since World War II. My practice is focused on the grey areas, the space between understanding. The ambiguities... The creative community in Newark is incredibly supportive of one another and features so many talented artists working all over the spectrum. I can't help but to gain something by being around this diverse and knowledgeable offering. Hopefully I'm able to add something as well."



### WOLFGANG GIL/THE HONK-TWEET

Sound Artist  
Studio at PES STUDIOS  
Working in Newark since 2016  
[www.thehonktweet.com](http://www.thehonktweet.com)

"At PES I run The Honk-Tweet, a production company with a focus on experiential content creation. I also produce my own artwork, which incorporates some of these technologies. Newark has given The Honk Tweet the opportunity to turn a project that was years in the making into a reality. As the studio enters its second year in the area, we look forward to doubling-down our commitment to building community around topics related to art, technology, and science."





**ADRIENNE WHEELER**

Mixed Media  
Home studio in Newark  
Born and raised in Newark

“My paternal family history in Newark, which dates back almost 220 years is what anchors my work in Newark. Researching family history has led me to a broader investigation of the African-American presence in 19th century Ironbound Newark.”



**KEVIN DARMANIE**

Mixed Media  
Home studio in Downtown Newark  
Working in Newark since 1994  
[www.kevindarmanie.com](http://www.kevindarmanie.com)

“As a long time member of the Newark arts scene I have been fortunate to take full advantage of opportunities afforded Newark artists who strive to stay involved with its many businesses, non-profits, city programs and arts organizations. Like so many of us I too have felt the pull of Brooklyn as a place to set up shop, but with its thousands of artists could life in New York ensure that I am able to earn a steady stream of income through my work? As long as Newark remains a place where artists can survive, I hope to stay.”



**DOMINIQUE DUROSEAU**

Interdisciplinary  
Studio at Gallery Aferro  
& Shine Portrait Studio  
Working in Newark since 2009  
[www.dominiqueduroseau.com](http://www.dominiqueduroseau.com)

“Newark is like a vestibule, an in-between space that makes, preps and nourishes artists between the early stage of their practice and emerging/established stage. It’s a community for personal and professional growth; you can figure out your career/practice at your own pace, experiment, make mistakes, learn, etc. Newark is also a home....”







## SHOSHANNA WEINBERGER

Mixed Media

Studio at PES STUDIOS

Working in Newark since 2006

[www.shoshanna.info](http://www.shoshanna.info)

"I have benefited greatly being a part of the Newark art community. My work has been informed through engaging with other artists in the studios at Project for Empty Space, at Gallery Aferro, Index Art Center, Newark Print Shop and Form Design Studio Express Newark. The diversity of old-school, established, emerging and mid-career artists in Newark has created a healthy cross-pollination. The Newark art community is like family or a good friend, one that allows me to retreat and create without guilt for months or engage where we left off. While I love only being 22 mins. away from New York City via the PATH but the irony is, I have everything I need here in Newark."



## PATRICIA CAZORLA & NANCY SALEME

Mixed Media

Studio at Gallery Aferro

Working in Newark since 2011

[www.galeriagalou.com/  
cazorla\\_saleme.html](http://www.galeriagalou.com/cazorla_saleme.html)

"Newark's unique energy, people's warmth, and affordability for an ample space is what attracted us first to move our studio to the city. Newark gave us the opportunity to grow as artists. We were able to create significant works and public art like large sculptures. Since our first visit in 2011, Newark's architectural beauty had a high impact on us. We have created many pieces inspired in our surroundings. For instance, we have portrayed the Amtrack Dock Vertical Lift, an ancient and majestic vertical lift bridge built in 1935. This painting traveled to the south of Spain for a public art exhibition in 2015. Despite the over-an-hour commute via the Path train, every time we arrive in Newark Penn Station we start an eventful journey; we instantly feel a rash of possibilities, a feeling of a bright new beginning."





# ▷ THE FIRE NEXT TIME

BY JASMINE WAHI

in the beginning, there was fire.

perhaps, in the end, there will be fire too.

and at some point in between- the bittersweet space of the not to distant past and the not so far future, a cycle continues.

there is a smoldering and grey disintegration- snowflakes borne of fire.

and then

an emergence from the glowing ash a being is born- raw, and pink,  
cloaked in a thin placenta of memory and pain and joy and struggle.  
and this being,

both alien and familiar;

rigid but boneless;

hiding secrets within the catacombs of its interiors,

but with its sticky viscera exposed in an exoskeleton to capture every

floating thought and particle of matter, grows and shapeshifts

to fill every crevice of a city-

from the rafters cathedral basilica of the sacred heart,

to the underground tunnels of the belcher ogden mansions.

only to crumble in the licking flame again.

to be reborn anew.

\*\*\*

newark burned, or so they say say.

it did, in fact, burn.

ablaze in solidarity with the spine of the northeast corridor tyranny of  
systemic race-based violence

(as they say: believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything)

there is no reason to dwell upon the past cycle of flame: save for the threads it provided in weaving the garment for a new generation in a beautiful city painted with the earthen hues of the human spectrum.

newark's new art scene persevered from and through the flames.  
a fire manifest within the belly and heart and hair and solo of the new mother, gladys.  
    from her came objects  
        and opportunities  
        and more fire

the same heat burns through another mother, amina.  
    she spat fire  
    she spits fire  
    she will continue to spit fire,  
        tendrils of steamy smoke curly-quiring and paisleying from within.

gladys had/has/will have a fire in the belly.  
amina had/has/will have a fire in the belly  
newark has a fire in the belly.

a mothers,  
    a woman  
    a black woman  
    a black woman in a forgotten town  
    a black woman in a forgotten town with her fire in the belly  
        ... spread her embers like seeds in the ash laden dirt

from these spicy seeds.  
hot. fire. flames.

a lava laden path ruptured and splayed open like a healing scab  
    drops of spessartite garnet, and ruby hot mucus forming into a vision.  
        a femme/female/feminist/fempositive/  
        queer/black/brown/white/colorful/male/nonbinary  
            vision

a vision and a reality of a collective creative expanse  
pushed forth by its mothers and its adoptive daughters: too many to name  
    making space  
    making place  
    making work  
all with the sparks flying from the flints of their fingers, and glinting of the chert of their lashes

pushed forth in spite (or because of)  
the new steel beams forged in fire to buttress the economic upcycle that laps at the iron and brick clad bounds, also flaked in a kiln, of the great city.

    pushed forth from the belly of the city.  
    a roiling mass that cannot be contained within cavernous caldron of the central district

flame always spreads quickly.  
    ask california.  
    ask ferguson.



ask newark.

the fire in the belly is infectious.

what it does not destroy quickly  
it will simmer and bubble and boil and create  
ask california.  
ask ferguson.  
ask newark.

the fire from the belly will spread to the city's other wards.

to the spaces and places who have been stoking the kindling tinder  
and letting a new spark enter through the ground and spread its warmth  
needling through  
the toes  
buzzing through  
the legs  
winding through  
the bowels  
radiating through  
the chest  
blasting through  
the cool crescent of the cuticle beds  
pulsating through  
the neck  
and up up up out  
vomiting out  
of the mouth of the north/south/east/west wards  
re ingested by  
the slippery baby phoenix of a new generation of  
firestarters

\*\*\*

the artists flame is femme

ask gladys.  
ask emma.  
ask evonne.  
ask rebecca.  
ask amina.  
ask dom.  
ask patricia.  
ask bisa.  
ask nancy.  
ask bumni.  
ask adrienne.

though born of women, the artist flame burns  
without a thought to gender.  
without a thought to age.  
ask akintola.  
ask kiyan.  
ask lisa.  
ask jali.  
ask nick.  
ask victor.  
ask the students at arts high.  
ask the students at rutgers. \*\*\*

fire is a funny thing.

it is wild.  
it is beautiful.  
it is angry.  
when it touches skin  
it scorches and blisters  
leaving a raw redness like a screaming bloody newborn.

when it touches skin  
it chars and flakes  
leaving a crunchy crumbly nothing to be blown like a dandelion

fire is a funny thing.  
it is what pushes the past into the past.  
it is what heralds in the future.

fire is a funny thing.  
it will give you life.  
it will kill you.

newark is a funny place.  
it is wildly beautiful.  
it is angry.  
it is bittersweet.  
it is joyful.  
it is wary.

when it touches you  
its essence burns so hot in your lungs  
you remember a history that may have never belonged to you

when it surrounds you  
its foreseeable future fills you with a fury and vigor and vim  
you long for an osmosis of whatever makes it so rich  
you feel the urge  
to claw out your innards and lay splayed and naked in the hopes that the  
complicated history will wash over you and leave behind the trace  
elements of what makes it so beautiful and so dark and so light all at the same time.  
you feel the woven cocoon of a million histories, and a million colors, and a  
million narratives from one of the american land masses most diverse cities.  
you feel honored to be allowed into such a rich space.

\*\*\*

when i die  
the flames will engulf my body  
in the tradition of the people that came before me  
the hope is that  
from the ash  
something will rise.

when things burn  
new things are born  
cloaked in the coating of our foremothers.

Jasmine Wahi is a Curator, Activist, and the Founder and Co-Director of Project for Empty Space. Her practice predominantly focuses on issues of female empowerment, complicating binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multipositional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism.



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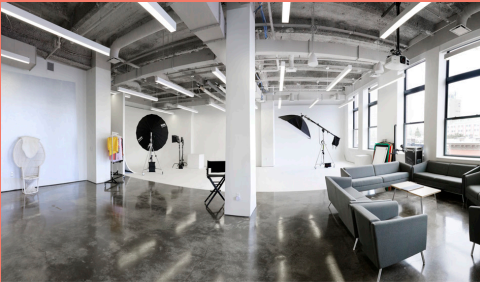
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