All-female show promises to defy stereotypes

by Julia Marsh

Inwood residents, Evonne Davis and Emma Wilcox, play out most of their lives as curators and artists at the Aferro Gallery in Newark, N.J. But both women were pleasantly surprised when they stumbled upon 207 Art Gallery, on W. 207th Street off Broadway.

Wilcox, who works with Davis in a 20,000-square-foot converted industrial building in Newark, described 207 Art Gallery as “a jewel box of a storefront,” tucked into a block that feels like a trip through a time machine. The gallery shares the street with John’s Doo Wop Deli and an old-fashioned barber shop.

“I walked by and had no idea there was even a gallery there about a year ago, and when I discovered there was a gallery, I said, ‘This is my neighborhood, I have to find out more about this,’ Davis said.

Fast forward a year and Davis is curating her first Manhattan photographic exhibition at 207 Art Gallery. The show, titled “What She Saw,” opens Fri., Nov. 2 and runs through Fri., Nov. 23.

Davis described the show as, “Photographic explorations of personal space and reflections,” which touch on a variety of themes including longing, eroded beauty, humor and gender identity. The themes are also expressed through an assortment of photographic mediums from manipulated and non-manipulated digital prints to Polaroids.

With four female New York-based artists displaying their works, the intention of the show is not for the women to express their unified femininity, but rather to exhibit that, “Ideas of femininity are complicated and complex and multilayered and multifaceted,” Davis said.

Wilcox, who will be showing a series of still lifes that capture women’s expressions, said that she is often suspicious of shows that try to pin down artists’ identities, whether it is their gender or ethnicity.

“Some women don’t deal with gender for fear of being pigeon-holed,” Wilcox said. She added, “My hope for the show is for people to appreciate the range of work that women may be dealing with.”

Wilcox will be displaying her still lifes alongside a collection of works by two fellow School of Visual Arts-alumni: Alicia Ackman and Manuela Paz. Kathryn Allen Hurni will add her specialized touch to the group through a series of Polaroid self-portraits that allude to the darker side of femininity.

Wilcox and Davis said that they hope to meet more artists and art-appreciators at the opening. Davis chose to structure the exhibition around photography because she said that the medium might, “Help attract some of the younger potential audience in the neighborhood.”

Wilcox, who commutes to Newark daily on the A-train, hopes to meet her neighborhood commuters, or “covert A-train riders,” as she calls them.

“Maybe [the show] will flush out some of those secret A-train people,” she said, adding that she’d like to get to know her fellow commuters above ground and on home turf.

Inwood artist Emma Wilcox’s 2001 print titled, “Audrey.”

Foto del 2001 de la artista de Inwood Emma Wilcox titulado “Audrey.”

Lo que el Inwood artist Emma Wilcox’s 2001 print titled, “Audrey.”

Una exhibición de mujeres promete
to defiende estereotipos

por Julia Marsh

Los residentes de Inwood, Ivonne Davis y Emma Wilcox, han pasado la mayor parte de sus vidas como directoras y artistas en la Galería Aferro en Newark, N.J. Pero ambas mujeres estuvieron agradablemente sorprendidas cuando tropezaron con la Galería 207 en el oeste de la Calle 207 de Broadway.

Wilcox, quien trabaja con Davis en un edificio industrial de 20,000 pies cuadrados en Newark, describió la Galería 207 como "una joya de tienda", metida en un bloque que se siente como un viaje a través de una maquina del tiempo. La galería comparte la calle con el John’s Doo Wop Deli y una barbería al estilo antiguo.

"Yo pasé por allí y no tenía idea de que había una galería ahí para la gente de Inwood", dijo Wilcox.

Wilcox y Davis aseguran que esperan que los artistas y los amantes del arte se unan al evento. Davis optó por estructurar la exhibición alrededor de la fotografía porque dijo que el medio podría ser "una atracción para el público más joven".

Wilcox, que se comunica diariamente a Newark en el tranvía A, espera conocer a sus vecinos que usan el tranvía, o "covert A-train riders", como se refirió.

"Quizás [la exposición] hará que salgan algunos de esos secretos de tranvía", dijo, agregando que le gustaría conocer a sus compañeros de viaje fuera del tranvía y en casa.

Lo que la galaxia del tranvía.