Red Saw Gallery One Year Old in October

Lowell Craig, Asha Ganpat, Seth Goodwin, and David Smith started planning for Red Saw Gallery at 585 Broad Street in July, 2005. They renovated the space themselves and opened in time for the NAC Studio Tour of October 05. They have been taking turns curating, inviting guest curators and holding juried shows each month. They produce three exhibits a month, one of which graces the walls of “27 Mix,” a restaurant at 27 Halsey Street. The quartet wishes to contribute to the growing downtown artist community by presenting both established and emerging contemporary artists. In between larger exhibitions, the Gallery hosts cultural events including other art exhibits, film festivals and screenings.

Gallery Aferro Reappears

Emma Wilcox and Evonne Davis started their Gallery Aferro up again on June 15 at 73 Market Street. The original gallery was created in 2003 in a self-renovated warehouse in the Ironbound; it was taken away by eminent domain a few months later. Aply, “Aferro” is derived from an idiomatic Portuguese expression that means “bound or chained to a difficult idea; one that is hard to achieve.”

The new gallery has use of a 20,000 square-foot four-storey building given by the owner as a donation to the arts community. They attribute this successful negotiation for this building to their Aljira “Emerge Training” and to the model of the NAC’s successful exhibits Mix in the Bricks and Facing Newark which mixed local and outside talent and used empty real estate for the arts.

The ground floor of the new site has glass storefront windows that allow the public to see the gallery from the street. The first and second floors function as a gallery, with monthly openings, an ongoing film night, performances and lectures. The third and fourth floors are workshop and studio space for demonstrations and classes.

Jerry Gant and Sebastian Patane Masuelli are resident artists on one floor. Each artist pays for his studio space by conducting visits with the public and developing a series of events or workshops. Gant, also an “Emerge” alumnus, plans to host a series of performance nights, help collaborations with community groups on arts programming, and lead classes for children and teens. Masuelli will be giving talks and teaching the Gallery interns about web design and marketing plus he will book musical performances for Gallery Aferro.

“Half of the building we make things in. The other half we show them. Plus we are not far from Aljira and Red Saw Art,” said Wilcox. The theme for their first year is called “Limited Engagement,” making explicit the usually unspoken relationship between art and real estate.

“We have borrowed (or stolen) a phrase from the former tenants of the building. Used as a title, it is meant to both honor and exorcise the previous history of our gallery, and our new space,” said Wilcox.

Wilcox and Davis are both writers and fine art photographers with a belief in bringing art to everyone and mixing “high” and “low culture.” Wilcox will have a solo exhibit of Newark area photos this fall at the Jersey City Museum. Davis has developed an outdoor exhibit in Coney Island and a public art piece featuring 28 welded steel figures which is to be installed in an area city park.

Their first exhibit, June 15 – July 9, called “No Money Down” had the theme of bargains, exchanges, rewards and/or losses. Contributions from 13 artists included Andrew V Chan’s paper-mache vending machine. Molly Bleder’s depiction of economic anxiety “running in the red,” and Kent Rugowski’s neon signage advertising anxieties and antidotes. A second exhibit runs through August 9. In Light is about how light defines forms and features 17 artists from around the world.

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