NEWARK

Gallery welcomes artwork considered too ‘dangerous’

The “dangerous” show will go on.

The Gallery Aferro in Newark has agreed to exhibit about half of the assemblage sculptures that the Morris County sheriff declared too dangerous for public display.

Harlem artist Suprina said Gallery Aferro will feature 16 of the 33 works removed yesterday from the Atrium Art Gallery in Morristown after Morris County Sheriff Edward Rochford said the sharp metal objects featured in many of the sculptures could be broken off and used as weapons.

Rochford requested they be removed from the Morris County administrative building, where they were on view for less than two weeks. The works were part of a four-artist exhibition scheduled to run through Jan. 7.

Morris Arts, the nonprofit arts group that curates the county building’s gallery, contacted local galleries and organizations to find an alternative space. The organization and the county are paying the costs of moving the works to Newark.

“There’s a silver lining,” Suprina said about the early end to the Morristown show. “I know the gallery (Aferro); it has a good reputation.”

A video of her sculptures will be screened at the Atrium Art Gallery’s opening reception next Friday, and photographs of her works will be on display until the show ends.

Gallery Aferro’s artistic director, Evonne Davis, said the nonprofit art gallery can exhibit the sculptures in the pop-up gallery it created for Market Street Convergence, a highlight of this year’s Open Doors arts festival in Newark.

Davis said she has never heard of an exhibit being shut down for safety reasons, but she conceded that placing art in public spaces is tricky business. —Peggy McGlone