

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Galleries open to celebrate Art Detroit Now

Michael H. Hodges / The Detroit News

It's back!

Art Detroit Now, the vast gallery crawl that spans virtually the entire metro region, is returning for its second year Friday and Saturday.

Participating will be 75 galleries and museums featuring the artwork of thousands.

Designed to shine a bright light on great Detroit art, Art Detroit Now kicks off Friday evening in the city's Midtown cultural corridor.

Throwing open their doors till 10 p.m. will be 14 venues ranging from the great -- the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, to name but two -- to the small and scrappy like the Cass Café's show of Detroit painters who paint Detroit.

Did we mention entertainment?

The one-man Satori Circus will peddle its wacky merriment at four Detroit galleries Friday evening.

On Saturday, this cultural roadshow leaps over Eight Mile, with art events from Bloomfield Hills to Mount Clemens.

Naturally, openings will abound.

Friday evening, the Detroit Institute of Arts will unveil a new Fluxus installation in its contemporary galleries, while the Cranbrook Art Museum and Cranbrook Institute of Science fuse science and art with "Animal Logic: Photography and Installation by Richard Barnes." That opens Saturday at the institute.

And don't miss this chance to see artists in their native habitat. Two intriguing Detroit warrens of artists' studios -- the Pioneer Building and the sprawling Russell Industrial Center -- will hold their annual open houses Saturday. Curious to peek into artists' lives? Here's your chance.

In addition, Russell will host entertainment and studio tours.

In an economically depressed year, gallery owners are understandably geeked at the exposure.

"We're really excited to be a part of Art Detroit Now," says Simone DeSousa, owner of Re:View Contemporary Gallery in Detroit's Midtown. The gallery opened just last October.

"There is a lot of really great art happening in Detroit," DeSousa adds, "and having one big event is a great step toward raising awareness of what's going on here."
Art Detroit Now

5-10 p.m. Friday: 14 galleries and museums throughout Detroit's Cultural Corridor will be open and welcoming visitors.

1-6 p.m. Saturday: 50 suburban galleries and museums will throw open their doors. In Detroit, artists' studios at the Pioneer Building (2679 E. Grand Blvd.) and the Russell Industrial Center (1600 Clay St.) will be open till 8 p.m. and midnight, respectively.

Visit www.artdetroitnow.com for the complete schedule.