

Print we must

D.R.A.W. offers its participants “a creative melting pot for possibilities”

by Lynn Woods

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of Kingston’s September art walk was the exhibition of large-scale linocuts at D.R.A.W.’s new Neighborhood Print Studio – they capitalize its first letters – which opened in June on the ground floor of a former factory at 49 Greenkill Avenue. The eye-catching two-foot-by-two-foot black-and-white prints, whose beautifully rendered images of birds, plants, insects, animals, human figures, mystic ceremonies, sci-fi landscapes, boats, buildings, feet, etc., were among the first artworks to be produced at the D.R.A.W. studio, the arts education program of Kingston’s Midtown Arts District (MAD).

The studio invited 28 artists and members of the community to participate in five sessions designing and carving the blocks, which were printed on the street at the third annual D.R.A.W.-a-Thon street block party on August 12. An actual steamroller was used/

The prints were sold as a fundraising initiative for the new print studio, with the artists getting a portion of the sale price. The print studio has enabled D.R.A.W., based in two storefront rooms at Energy Square, to dramatically expand its facilities and programming dramatically. D.R.A.W. offers popular artist’s workshops, classes, a summer program for elementary- and middle-school students, and a youth workforce training program called PUGG for Kingston High School students and recent alums.

PUGG interns are paid to work with artists, curators, photographers, and other arts professionals as well as assist in D.R.A.W.’s programs. Founder and director Lara Giordano is constantly putting out feelers for new collaborations with other local arts organizations/

With so many projects afoot, “we were growing out of our space and seeing a lot of demand for printmaking,” Giordano said. The three presses used in the Sunday printmaking class had to be moved each week to make room for other classes.

When she learned that the Metro, the maker space currently in development in an abandoned factory on Greenkill Avenue, would focus on life skills such as sewing and woodworking and not



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include printmaking, she began eyeing the industrial space across the street as a location for a printmaking studio. She and Lisa Barnard Kelley, executive director of MAD, successfully obtained a grant from the NoVo Foundation which is being matched by MAD, funds in a two-year pilot program that covers rent, utilities, and renovation costs.

A lot of equipment

The 3000-square-foot, high-ceilinged, brightly lit studio is equipped for both fine-art printmaking and graphic publishing. “We have graphic design capacities. We can do transparencies for silkscreening. And we have a computer hooked up to a printer as well as a perfect binder [a machine used to bind soft-cover books] and a stack cutter, so we can do publishing” for catalogs, posters, and the like, said Giordano.

Starting in January, the print studio will offer memberships enabling space to be rented out on an annual, month-

ly, weekly or daily basis, with the cost including all supplies except for paper, which will be sold separately at wholesale prices. The facility will provide training to PUGG interns. It will also serve as an entrepreneurial incubator/

Aurora Brush, owner of Cosmic Doghouse Press, which produces zines, books, and other collaborative print projects, rents out a room at the print studio and provides employment to the interns.

“I have access to their presses and silkscreening and publication equipment, while I offer Risograph printing as an accompaniment to their workshops,” said Brush. (Risograph printing utilizes a machine that allows artists to create multi-layered prints quickly.) “Moving here has allowed me to expand the scope of my projects and meet my clients in person. There’s a lot of synergies.”

Cosmic Doghouse Press has produced its own publications, including a book on tarot cards, a free community



zine, and an annual themed calendar featuring the work of a dozen artists. The labyrinth of nooks and crannies

that complement the central loft-like space may explain why the landlord previously had difficulty renting the unit.

The layout perfectly suits D.R.A.W.'s multifaceted needs. There's a washout room used for screenprinting, a room housing the stack cutter and perfect binder, a kitchen, storage room; and separate offices for Brush and Kelley, who previously rented space at 721 Media Center. Minor renovations included the addition of a floating wall, moving the sink, and replacing the floor in the main loft space. Artist and MAD treasurer Jason Mones laid plywood sheets over the existing worn, fraying linoleum and painted them battleship gray. The D.R.A.W. space at Energy Square is now primarily dedicated to community programs and a gallery.

Starting out small

While proud of receiving the NoVo money and doubling it, Giordano is constantly shaking the money tree. When it comes to applying for grants, persistence, and a strategic approach has paid off. MAD's annual budget is now \$500,000, more than a fourfold increase over five years ago. MAD covers the salaries of its two directors, the

PUGG interns, and two other employees, Beth Humprey and Chris O'Neal. MAD produces the annual arts expo and Kingston's First Saturday gallery guide. Among other activities, it serves as a fiscal sponsor for numerous events, organizations, and individual artists.

The print studio provides D.R.A.W. with ways to generate income other than by teaching. The memberships, sales of paper, and publishing capabilities will help the studio become financially sustainable. Equally important, however, is D.R.A.W.'s commitment to equity. Its sliding scale of fees ensures that no interested community member is prevented from participation in its programs.

Giordano's approach of starting out small and developing a program organically has proven an effective way to grow. "If we're starting something new, we do a pilot to see if it has legs," she said. Programs are built on the success of former projects.

Civic engagement is another component of D.R.A.W. This summer's two-week intensive workshop for middle-school students called CityLook Lab, had the children walking and taking public transit around Kingston in the quest to test and suggest improvements to the city's infrastructure. The kids designed signage, constructed bus shelters, and visited and research library outside Rhinebeck to models of dozens of buildings designed by architect Steven Holl.

Communications Village, which trained local youth to make prints by top artists visiting from New York City, is a model D.R.A.W. has sought to emulate. The actual press from Ben Wigfall's printmaking shop has found a new home at the print studio. It was donated to the facility by artist Andrew Lyght, whose home and studio is located in the building that once housed Communications Village. The large rollers that came with the press, which costs about \$1000 each, according to Giordano, were used to make the linocut prints for the August D.R.A.W.-A-Thon.

"The Neighborhood Print Studio will become a common space for all creative energies in the community," concluded treasurer Mones. "It's a place for conversation, ideas, and classes. It's a printmaking studio and so much more—a creative melting pot for possibilities."

Woodstock Film Festival back with a bang

by Frances Marion Platt

When Woodstock Film Festival founder/director Meira Blaustein stepped onstage on opening night of this year's extravaganza to introduce the world premiere of Nicol Paone's dark comedy *The Kill Room* at the Woodstock Playhouse, she noted that this was WFF's 24th year and promised that next year's 25th anniversary would be "really special." Many in the audience must've been taken aback by the premise that something really special wasn't already happening. For this movie buff, 2023 proved to be the year that WFF truly felt like it was back up to speed for the first time since the COVID pandemic forced a hybrid of streaming and drive-in theater screenings in 2020.

Tops on this reviewer's list of great moments for WFF 2023 was not a movie, but a panel discussion: "The Picket Line: A Road to Pay Equity and Sustainability," hosted on Saturday afternoon at White Feather Farm and presented by New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT). Film critic Thelma Adams moderated a freewheeling talk with two Writers' Guild of America East representatives, Dana Weissman and Jo Miller,

along with author/showrunner Neil Gaiman. Less than a week had passed since WGA had announced a tentative agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, and the mood was feisty and upbeat as the panelists described how WGA's creative tactics on the picket line, strong social media game and solidarity with fellow strikers at Screen Actors' Guild/AFTRA had guided them to a relatively happy outcome. War stories were shared of how bad things were in the film and television industry before the strike, especially for younger writers exiled to "mini-rooms."

On the screening side, lucky audiences got intriguing tastes of movies headed to theaters in the weeks and months to come. Two to look out for especially were *The Listener*, an acting tour de force by Tessa Thompson as a telephone crisis counselor, directed by Steve Buscemi; and Warwick Thornton's *The New Boy*, set in Australia during World War II and starring Cate Blanchett as a rebellious nun and talented newcomer Aswan Reid as a young Aborigine boy with mystical gifts who is sent to the orphanage that she runs.

Audience favorites in this year's WFF were Tony Goldwyn's *Ezra* in the Feature Narrative category and Matthew Heineman's *American Symphony* as Feature

Documentary. Other award-winners, in addition to James Ivory's Lifetime Achievement Maverick Award, were:

- *Rachel Hendrix*, Victor Nuñez – Gigantic Pictures Award for Best Feature Narrative
- *Beyond Utopia*, Madeleine Gavin – Leon Gast Award for Best Feature Documentary and Best Editing Documentary
- *Asleep in My Palm*, Henry Nelson – Best Editing Narrative (Max Ethan Miller) and Haskell Wexler Award for Best Cinematography (Tatjana Krstevski)
- *Razing Liberty Square*, Katja Esson – World of Ha Change-Maker Award
- *No Right Way*, Chelsea Bo – Ultra Indie

- *Three Birthdays*, Jane Weinstock – NYWIFT Excellence in Narrative Filmmaking
- *No Accident*, Kristi Jacobson – NYWIFT Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking
- *Ricky*, Rashad Frett – Short Narrative
- *Deciding Vote*, Jeremy Workman & Robert Lyons – Short Documentary
- *Swim Captain*, Christa Haley – Short Student
- *Sunflower Field*, Polina Buchak – Animation

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Biden denies seeking 'cold war' with China

The president made his remarks during a visit to Vietnam

By Josh Boak and Aamer Madhani
The Associated Press

HANOI » President Joe Biden said Sunday his visit to Vietnam to showcase stronger ties with Hanoi was not about trying to start a "cold war" with China, but rather was part of a broader effort to provide global stability by building U.S. relationships throughout Asia at a time of tensions with

Beijing. "It's not about containing China," Biden said at a news conference in Vietnam's capital after attending the Group of 20 summit in India. "It's about having a stable base."

The American president came to Hanoi as Vietnam was elevating the United States to its highest diplomatic status, comprehensive strategic partner. That is evidence of how far the relationship

has evolved from what Biden referred to as the "bitter past" of the Vietnam War.

The expanded partnership reflects a broader effort across Asia to counter China's influence. Biden has said Vietnam wants to flex a degree of independence, and U.S. companies are seeking an alternative to imports from Chinese factories. He is pursuing possible allies while also trying to soothe

BIDEN » PAGE 5



AP U.S. President Joe Biden, front, attends a military welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. Biden is on an official two-day visit in Vietnam.

LUONG THAI LINH/POOL PHOTO VIA

KINGSTON

A BIGGER D.R.A.W.



TANIA BARRICKLO/DAILY FREEMAN

Members of D.R.A.W., The Department of Regional Art Workers, pose for a photo in the new Neighborhood Print Studio located in the former Pajama Factory at 49 Greenkill Ave. in Midtown, Kingston, N.Y.

Art workers organization expands with opening of Neighborhood Print Shop

By Brian Hubert
bhubert@freemanonline.com

KINGSTON, N.Y. » The Department of Regional Art Workers recently opened its new Neighborhood Print Shop in the Pajama Factory on Greenkill Avenue.

The new shop represents an expansion for the organization known as D.R.A.W. from its nearby location less than a block away next to the Center for Creative Education in RUPCO's Energy Square.

Lara Giordano, a retired Kingston High School art teacher who serves as D.R.A.W.'s education director, said they are trying to be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. She said the space is offering classes in various printmaking processes like collagraph and silk-screening.

+ Online: A gallery of images is posted with this story at DAILYFREEMAN.COM.

Open studio time will also be available for rent. That will include access to plates, pallets, drawing materials, screens, inks, tools, access to the exposure unit, cleaning chemicals, press for silkscreen, relief, intaglio and lithograph print.

Lisa Kelley, the organization's executive director, said they are also working with Cosmic Doghouse Press as the organization's business incubator partner.

The building also serves as the headquarters for the Midtown Arts District. Kelley has her office in a space that once housed the factory manager.

Kelley said they ultimately

D.R.A.W. » PAGE 8



TANIA BARRICKLO — DAILY FREEMAN

Young artists' from PUGG (Pop Up Gallery Group), a youth work training program for the Department of Regional Art Workers, or D.R.A.W. creations for the DRAW-A-THON on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023. The event took place outside of the D.R.A.W. studio at the Energy Square building at Cedar Street and Iwo Jima Lane in Midtown Kingston N.Y. Activities included immersive drawing activities, steamroller printing, face painting, and music. For more information, visit drawkingston.org. Pictured from left last week are DRAW-A-THON producer Maiszy Milliken, Spencer Fells, kneeling, Gia Boolukos with frying pan, and Elaina Mawhinney.

HEALTH

What's behind food recalls

Contaminants can range from rocks to bugs to plastic

By Jonel Aleccia
AP Health Writer

Rocks in Trader Joe's cookies. Insects in its broccoli-cheese soup. Pieces of plastic in Banquet frozen chicken strips.

In recent weeks, U.S. consumers have seen high-profile food recalls for an unappetizing reason: They're contaminated with foreign objects that have no place on a dinner plate. And while no one wants to bite down on stainless steel in peanut butter or bone fragments in smoked sausage, this type of contamination is one of the top reasons for food recalls in the U.S.

Food safety experts and federal agencies use the terms "extraneous" or "foreign" materials to describe things like metal fragments, rubber gaskets and bits of bugs that somehow make it into packaged goods.

"Extraneous materials" triggered nine recalls in 2022 of more than 477,000 pounds of food regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service — triple the number of recalls tied to food contaminated with toxic E. coli bacteria.

And the size of recalls can reach into the millions: In 2019, USDA reported 34 recalls of more than 16 million pounds of food, spurred in large part by a giant recall of nearly 12 million pounds of Tyson chicken strips tainted with pieces of metal.

Plastic pieces from frayed conveyor belts, wood shards from produce pallets, metal shavings or wire from machinery are all common. So are rocks, sticks and bugs that can make it from the field to

RECALLS » PAGE 5

Grass Absent Molds Absent
 Source: National Allergy Bureau

AIR QUALITY FORECAST

City	Today's air quality	Index
Adirondacks	Good	25
Long Island	Good	33
Lower Hudson Valley	Good	37
NYC Metro	Good	53
Upper Hudson Valley	Good	33

What it means: 0-50: Good; 51-100: Moderate; 101-150: Unhealthy for sensitive people; 151+: Unhealthy for all. Source: Dept of Environmental Conservation
 * Lower Hudson Valley is the AQ Location for Kingston

TODAY'S UV INDEX

2

11+: Extreme
 8-10: Very high
 6-7: High
 3-5: Moderate
 < 2: Low

(The higher the number, the faster skin damage will occur.)

SUN SETTINGS, MOON PHASES

Sunrise	6:32 a.m.	Moonrise	2:48 a.m.
Sunset	7:13 p.m.	Moonset	6:08 p.m.
Hours of sunlight	12 hr., 41 min.		

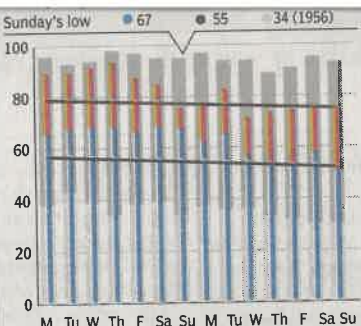
Kingsville NNE 4-8 mph
 Syracuse NNW 4-8 mph

24-HOUR PRECIPITATION

Poughkeepsie	0.59"
24 hours through 4 p.m. Sunday	1.02"
Month to date	1.39"
Normal month to date	31.13"
Year to date	28.57"
Normal year to date	28.57"

TIDES

Location	Today	Tuesday
Kingston		
High	12:04 p.m. 3.5 ft.	12:19 a.m. 4.0 ft.
Low	6:14 a.m. 0.6 ft.	6:56 a.m. 0.4 ft.
High	---	12:49 p.m. 3.7 ft.
Low	6:13 p.m. 0.8 ft.	6:57 p.m. 0.6 ft.
Hyde Park		
High	11:09 a.m. 3.0 ft.	11:56 a.m. 3.2 ft.
Low	5:22 a.m. 0.5 ft.	6:06 a.m. 0.3 ft.
High	11:31 p.m. 3.8 ft.	---
Low	5:26 p.m. 0.5 ft.	6:13 p.m. 0.4 ft.
Albany		
High	2:27 a.m. 4.9 ft.	3:14 a.m. 5.0 ft.
Low	9:35 a.m. -0.1 ft.	10:20 a.m. -0.2 ft.
High	2:59 p.m. 4.5 ft.	3:46 p.m. 4.6 ft.
Low	9:26 p.m. 0.3 ft.	10:14 p.m. 0.2 ft.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Tuesday Hi/Lo/W
Auburn	75/57/c	76/60/pc
Camden	77/57/sh	75/63/c
Chittenango	77/58/c	78/62/c
Fulton	76/56/c	74/61/pc
Oswego	75/57/pc	76/62/sh
Phoenix	77/57/c	78/60/pc
Rome	77/58/c	75/61/c
Utica	77/58/c	75/61/c

Indianapolis 70/54/sh 76/54/pc
 Kansas City 95/77/pc 97/74/pc
 Las Vegas 95/77/pc 97/74/pc

International cities

North and South America	Europe
Bogota 71/51/r 72/52/pc	Athens 81/68/s 84/64/s
Buenos Aires 66/53/t 63/51/c	Belgrade 89/60/s 91/62/pc
Caracas 95/75/t 95/74/t	Berlin 87/60/pc 85/64/pc
Montreal 75/58/pc 73/62/c	Dublin 63/50/sh 62/43/c
Rio de Janeiro 83/71/s 84/72/s	London 79/61/pc 71/57/sh
Toronto 73/62/pc 70/52/sh	Madrid 81/60/pc 81/59/s
Vancouver 67/55/pc 63/55/pc	Moscow 67/49/pc 68/49/c
Asia, Australia	Paris 85/63/t 71/60/t
Beijing 87/62/pc 84/59/pc	Rome 85/60/s 84/64/pc
Hong Kong 84/80/r 88/80/sh	Stockholm 70/58/c 70/54/sh
Jerusalem 89/73/s 88/68/s	Africa
Kabul 94/60/s 93/63/s	Cairo 97/83/pc 88/78/pc
Manila 92/80/t 90/80/r	Casablanca 85/63/s 83/63/pc
Melbourne 63/49/c 71/50/s	Johannesburg 84/37/s 63/38/s
New Delhi 88/77/t 91/80/pc	Kinshasa 86/72/c 90/73/s
Singapore 89/81/r 91/81/s	Lagos 88/77/t 87/77/r
Sydney 67/51/s 70/54/pc	Nairobi 79/59/t 82/60/t
Tokyo 87/77/pc 88/76/pc	Tripoli 88/67/s 90/67/s

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice

D.R.A.W.

FROM PAGE 1

settled on the name Neighborhood Print Shop over Community Print Shop after going back and forth for a bit.

"It's open to the neighborhood in name," Kelley said.

At the center of the shop

is a fully-restored press that once belonged to Ben Wigfall, a SUNY New Paltz professor who pioneered the idea of a community print shop and arts space in Kingston with his Communications Village in the city's Ponckhockie neighborhood in the 1970s. Wigfall died in 2017.

The Communications Village trained students to make prints for mostly

African-American artists who traveled from New York City to visit the shop, according to a profile article produced by D.R.A.W. The shop's clients included now well-known artists such as Benny Andrews, Charles Gaines and Melvin Edward. They would talk with the students and make themselves available to the youth, the piece stated.

"Communication Village provided a venue for them at a time when they were shut out from the mainstream art world, while the local teens found a creative outlet, as well as a second home, presided over by a nurturing mentor," the article stated.

Giordano said the press was customized for Wigfall and even features his name. It was last used by

Wigfall in 1979 and later passed to artist Pat Chow, who last used it in 1989, Giordano said.

It wasn't used again until it came to D.R.A.W. in June, Giordano said.

Giordano said continuing Wigfall's legacy loomed large in her founding and running both D.R.A.W. and the Pop-Up Gallery Group, or PUGG, program, as well as everything they are doing at the Neighborhood Print Shop.

On a recent afternoon, D.R.A.W. staff, including several PUGG students both in high school and college, were working to finish T-shirts, stickers and other items for D.R.A.W.'s expanded Draw-A-Thon. It took place in August for the first time as a block-party-style event on Iwo Jima Lane.

Stacks of T-shirts pressed in another corner of the factory floor featured two designs. One stated: "Un-Crayon." Another, created by artist Chris O'Neil, depicts a T-Rex creature holding a pencil called "Drawzilla."

In another corner, designs were being prepared for a unique print event during the Draw-A-Thon that was set to feature a steamroller typically used for paving projects, Giordano said.

The brick industrial building, which dates back over 100 years, has housed a number of tenants over the years. They included a T-shirt company, a dog-training facility and, most recently, an art gallery.

Giordano said the numerous outlets on the floor

are a hint to a time when the floor was filled with sewing machines when it was a pajama factory.

On a recent afternoon Midtown Arts District Treasurer Jason Mones reflected back to days when he worked to print a poster he designed for the Neighborhood Print Shop.

"It was probably a sweatshop with the boss in his office at the back," he said, as he used one of the outlets to plug in a press.

Giordano said she sees the Neighborhood Print Shop fitting into a much larger vision for the arts in Midtown.

She envisions Midtown becoming something of an "arts campus," featuring not only D.R.A.W. but also other organizations like the Center for Creative Education, Bardavon/UPAC and the Center for Photography at Woodstock, which is in the process of moving into a new home at a former cigar factory at 25 Dederick St. This vision also encompasses arts-related businesses like Bailey Pottery and R&F Handmade Paints, she said.

"That's a goal of the Midtown Arts District," she said.

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