



Pro Arts Jersey City
344 Grove St.
PMB 190
Jersey City, NJ 07302

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 1-4 on weekends, June 4 - 26, 2016.

Opening Reception: June 3, beginning at 7pm. Part of JC Fridays in tandem with the Riverview Jazz Festival Opening Party.

For Immediate Release
Pro Arts Jersey City Exhibit
info@proartsjersycity.org

Artists Reception: Sunday, June 26, 3 – 5pm

"Improvisations/Art"

Curated by Michael Endy
June 3 - 26, 2016

Featuring the work of Ibou Ndoye, Geraldine Gaines, Juliet Martin, & Demetrio Alfonso

Artist's Reception, June 26, 6-8pm
CityLife 125 1st Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

Pro Arts Jersey City announces Improvisations/Art: recent work by Ibou Ndoye, Geraldine Gaines, Juliet Martin, & Demetrio Alfonso, which will be on view in Jersey City at CityLife Gallery, 125 First Street.

Improvisations/Art is an exhibition of Pro Arts Jersey City, and pairs the artwork of four of its member artists. The exhibition was curated by Michael Endy, who selected the artists for their blending of tradition with modernism, and for the importance of personal history in the artists' work. The exhibition is cohesive, yet the individual voices are strong – not unlike the sounds of improvisational jazz that will accompany the opening night festivities.

Ibou Ndoye was born in Dakar, Senegal. His artwork combines modernism with African traditionalism in his glass paintings, sculptures, and works on paper. Of his artwork, Ibou says "When I paint, I become blind and turn my paint brush into a walking stick, then fumble until I reach where I want to be." Ibou was educated in Senegal, where he also taught painting. Since the late 1990's, Ibou has exhibited in Africa and Europe in internationally touring exhibits, and is a regular exhibitor at the Biannual of African Art in Dakar.

Juliet Martin mixes tradition with experimentation in funny and ironic hand-woven sculptural memoirs. Her sculptures and tapestries apply the Japanese philosophy of SAORI, which encourages freeform work – no patterns, rules, or mistakes. Every one of Juliet's creations is "an improvisation in awkward beauty." Juliet earned her MFA at the School of Visual Arts in New York, and a BFA from Brown University. She has had solo exhibits in New York City, New Jersey, and Osaka, Japan.

Geraldine Gaines' large-scale wood carvings and rubbed prints find their inspiration in the imagery of her West African culture. Her concept of carving on wooden doors came to her in a dream, and became her Doors To The Past series. The doors incorporate African wax fabric print designs with images of African masks, and in keeping with the tradition of the wood of traditional masks, are stained black. Geraldine received her BFA from New Jersey City University.

Demetrio Alfonso is a native of Italy. He completed his studies at SVA and the Art Students League, and maintains a New York studio specializing in restoration of 18th – 20th century American paintings. His own relief paintings combine "an eclectic blend of vibrant colors and rich textures, evoking the past and the present in a fusion of natural elements and human emotions." In 2006, Demetrio was represented in the International Art Fair in Beijing and Shanghai. His work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in Shanghai.

Pro Arts Jersey City is an organization of professionals in the Visual Arts, mainly from Jersey City and the surrounding Metropolitan area who are working to promote the arts and to better communicate Jersey City's identity as a growing arts center. Please visit our website www.proartsjersycity.org or call 201-736-7057. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency for the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

