

triCityNews

MONMOUTH'S NEWS & ARTS WEEKLY



MORE CULTURAL REGIONALIZATION COMING OUT OF ASBURY PARK

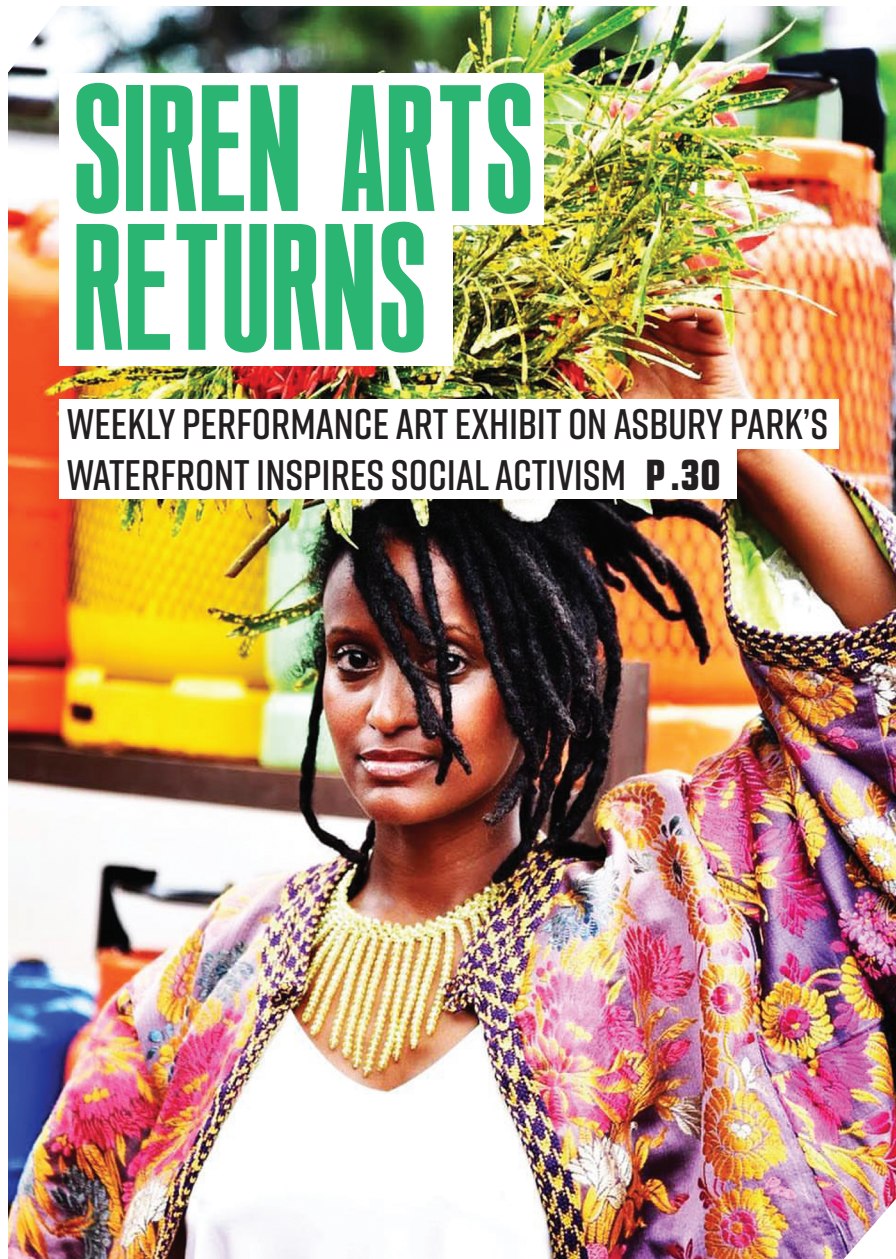
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SIREN ARTS RETURNS TO ASBURY PARK

WEEKLY PERFORMANCE ART EXHIBIT ALONG THE WATERFRONT AIMS TO INSPIRE SOCIAL ACTIVISM

By Michelle Gladden

ASBURY PARK - From an exploration into identity to the relationship between the airwaves and ocean waves, Siren Arts' weekly performance art exhibits along the waterfront returns next week.

Curated by Victoria Reis, executive and artistic director of Transformer – a 17-year-old DC-based visual arts' non-profit, Siren Arts is the local expansion of their mission to connect and promote emerging urban visual artists from DC, Philadelphia, Newark, and New York. Reis is an Ocean Township native who runs Transformer from her Neptune home.

"Highlighting a diverse range of artists living within the northeast corridor, Siren Arts provides urban-based artists an opportunity to get out of their respective cities, enjoy creative time at the beach, and advance work they are currently pursuing," Reis said in a written statement. "Transformer's goal with Siren Arts is to empower the participating artists and engage audiences in both reflection and positive action around ocean conservation and its implications in all other social activism."

Earlier this month, an opening reception was held at the NYC home of long-time Transformer supporter David Brock, founder of Media Matters for America.

Now in its third year, Siren Arts themes have included 'They Will Not Replace Us' and 'Turning The Tide.' This year's program is entitled 'Into the Mystic' and runs July 9 to August 22.

The emerging artists, who must work within the discipline of performance art, are provided housing at The Asbury and funding for their 'micro-residency' at the beach.

With Into the Mystic, artists will reflect on just how the sea moves us physically, spiritually, and emotionally. They include DC-based artist Kunj, Jane Carver of Philadelphia, Maps Glover of DC, Ayana Evans from NYC, Tsedaye Makonnen from DC, Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow of NYC, and Andrew Demirjian of Newark.

The weekly 7:15 pm Thursday night shows explore everything from ocean myths and migration to unity, the collective unconscious and ancestry through music, dance, ritual, sound, and visual art components, Reis said.

"You might remember Jodie from the They Will Not Replace Us performance



Tsedaye Makonnen

art event as part of the inaugural year of Siren Arts when we operated out of the Collective Art Tank," Reis said. "It was a pouring rainy night. All the artists in that night's program presented work responding to Charlottesville, Va.

"Jane Carver is also returning to AP for this year's Siren Arts," she continued. "She was part of the Promised Land exhibition I curated & presented in the Fifth Ave pavilion with support from the Warhol Foundation & Madison Marquette back in 2014."

Evans and Lyn-Kee-Chow will be working with teens from the Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County, Reis said. The teens will be part of their public performances.

New this year will be a 6 to 7 pm Tuesday 'Meet The Artist' happy hour at Danny Clinch Transparent Gallery, located inside The Asbury hotel at the corner of Fifth and Kingsley avenues. The free events will feature a mix of artist talks and workshops, and a cash bar.

The free 7:15 pm Thursday performance art exhibits are approximately 40 minutes in length. Participants are encouraged to bring beach towels, blankets and/or chairs. In the event of rain, performances will move to The Asbury lobby, located at 210 Fifth Avenue. Rain location shifts will be called at 5 pm on the performance day. For up to date information follow Siren Arts via Instagram @sirenartsap. For more about the weekly exhibits, visit transformerdc.org.