

ARTFUL COLLECTIVE PRESS RELEASE

On **September 13, 2008**, a new type of art show is launching in Los Angeles. Artful Collective – a non-profit art organization – is having their premiere art show at the Coma Alternative Space with all proceeds going towards a downtown Los Angeles charity called, Inner-City Arts.

“Five Things” the simple title of the premiere show straightforwardly explains the theme. After surveying numerous people asking them to jot down five commonplace objects, feelings and ideas, Artful Collective asked four artists to interpret these common *things* using their individual preferred medium. The artists range from a mixed media artist, painter, photographer and paper sculptor. The opening night reception, featuring music, food and wine will be held Saturday, **September 13th from 7-11pm**, while the exhibit lasts from **9/13 – 10/12**. For the reception, there is a \$5 suggested donation at the door and all proceeds will go to Inner-City Arts.

Coma Alternative Space is located at **3503 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019**

Artists include BiJian Fan, a paper sculptor, Mike Coulson, a photographer, John Hicks, a mixed-media artist, and Lisa "Nyla" Hicks, a painter. More information about the artists are below.

Inner-City Arts

www.inner-cityarts.org

Inner-City Arts was founded in 1989 in response to funding cuts that eliminated arts instruction from Los Angeles public schools. Aware of the powerful role of the arts, Bob Bates, Artistic Director and Co-Founder, saw the need to offer at-risk children the opportunity to experience the power of creativity. Along with Irwin Jaeger, a local businessman and entrepreneur, Bob worked to restore arts education to the children in and around Los Angeles' skid row area. From the beginning, a unique and on-going partnership was formed – Los Angeles Unified School District brings students to Inner-City Arts during their regular school day.

Inner-City Arts offers opportunities for children to build artistic self-expression, enhancing their ability to perform both creatively and academically in challenging environments. The children learn to communicate feelings and ideas in the universal language of art, and are empowered to apply the skills they have learned to their regular academic programs. Most importantly, children are able to see themselves as valuable, worthy and capable of reaching goals.

Artful Collective

www.artfulcollective.com

The Artful Collective is a non-profit art organization started by two friends in reaction to the difficulty for new artists to initiate their artistic careers. The difficulty of the financial hurdles of materials, gallery submission fees and the small profit made when a piece is finally sold. Artful Collective wanted to broaden the playing field for emerging artists by being a facilitator for the progression of art and artists.

Mission

To maintain an art collective that perpetually encourages the creation of art by facilitating emerging artists and musicians with the means to express and share their work with an audience. The art collective promises to encourage the expression of art by providing a venue for new artists who are first embarking on their artistic journey. The collective also promises to share this expression of art with an audience interested in emerging artists.

Purpose

1. Funding facilitator: To put real dollars through community funding directly into the hands of artists both young and old so that they may continue their goals as artists
ie. 100% sales revenue for artists, charity for art programs, direct band sales, etc.
2. Progressive movement facilitator: To give artists, musicians, art lovers and art virgins a free market space to learn, experience and interact from each other in order to enhance a grassroots art movement for the people run by the people
3. Connection facilitator: To provide artists and musicians a venue and an audience to display their art with as little effort and financial burden as possible
4. Experience facilitator: To provide an experience where guests can enjoy themselves with something they have never experienced before; giving them a sense that they are now part of something: A collective

Artist Bios

BiJian Fan

www.bijianfan.com

BiJian Fan was born in Beijing, China, where he learned the paper art. He carried on this tradition by creating cutting-edge paper sculptures and pushed envelope to embrace metal, polymer, fabrics, and other media in his sculptures.

BiJian sculpted a 3D object out of a 2D material. He explored the aesthetics, vulnerability, adaptability, and other characteristics of various media. He combined cutting, folding, curling, weaving, and other alternative sculptural techniques into his artistic expression to develop his own style. BiJian has exhibited his sculptures internationally and earned numerous awards in juried art exhibitions.

Mike Coulson

www.mikecoulsonphotography.com

John Hicks

www.ahdart.com

"*In your face*", "*Thought provoking*", "*Makes a strong visual prologue*", "*Mesmerizing*" these are just some of the words used by art critics, executive curators, and collectors who have had the pleasure of experiencing the work of artist John Hicks.

Originally from the southern California coast, John currently works in his Los Angeles based studio creating the masterpieces that adorn the walls of the Pop Art scene galleries such as the Hive, World of Wonder, and the Infusion Gallery, just to name a few.

If you are frequenting the L.A. art scene at all, chances are you have seen John Hicks' artwork. John is an abstract and surrealist painter, sculptor, photo-artist, disc jockey, graphic and apparel designer, as well as a published poet. He has been successfully exhibiting his work in both solo and group shows in Los Angeles since November 2005 and as of December 2007 can be seen in galleries bi-coastally in both L.A. and New York City.

John Hicks is also the creator and designer of Ahh'd Art Apparel. A uni -sex line of casual wear for both adults and children created from the basis of his paintings, sculptures, photography, and graphic designs. Ahh'd Art Apparel can be found at several trendy boutiques in West Hollywood, C.A., Downtown L.A. in the fashion District and of course online at www.Neoimages.net and www.Number1artist.com.

John's paintings have also appeared in several publications including ARTnews, Art Forum, Art New England and the New York Observer.

John Hicks is currently represented by what's known as "the most beautiful gallery in Chelsea"- the Amsterdam Whitney Gallery in New York City with executive curator Ruthie Tucker.

Lisa "Nyla" Hicks

Lisa Hicks Rosso a.k.a. Nyla views her life as a creative journey. Born in southern Ca and raised for some time in Chile, South America, she is a fusion of latin-american cultures. Her love for color, eccentricity and creative expression fuel her life.

Raised in an artistic family, Nyla began making all natural hemp jewelry at the age of ten. Drawing and painting soon followed and has been her main creative outlet ever since. Her favorite mediums include: spray-paint, paint markers, acrylics, ink and anything recycled. Her unique style sets her apart and she strives to share her art with the world. Nyla has recently been creating clothing, vintage inspired hand bags and tattoo design.