

Yonkers' arts weekend shines spotlight on local talent

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Over 50 Yonkers Artists at YoHo to open up studios to public. Three artist discuss their art and what visitors will see. (Video by Ricky Flores/The Journal News)



(Photo: Ricky Flores/The Journal News)

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Yonkers is going to be having an art attack this weekend.

Beginning Saturday, the city will host its [Third Annual Yonkers Arts Weekend](#), a two-day celebration of all things creative — showcasing local artists, artisans, musicians, performers,

photographers and much more — taking place across various venues throughout the city.

One of the biggest draws of Arts Weekend? The [13th Annual YoHo Artists Open Studios Tours](#).

"It's always fun to open the doors and see how people react to things; what appeals to them and what doesn't appeal to them," says Irvington resident Adam Schultz, artist organizer for the event who's been with YoHo for eight years.

"You'll see where the artists work, see their practices and view their newest work on the easel."

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Taking place in the historic and sprawling Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, which was [recently declared an arts district](#) by the city, 50-plus local artists and artisans will open their work space to the public, allowing a glimpse into their creative processes.

Metal workers, jewelry makers, body artists, a distiller and even an animal exhibitor are among the participants currently in [the lineup](#). It won't be just painters, photographers and sculptors showing off their work throughout the weekend, which Schultz calls "the most important two days on their professional calendars" for many of the artists.

"Clothing has been on the backburner as far as art is concerned," says Jessie Matrullo, a photographer and stylist who plans to showcase her extensive collection of boutique and couture clothing that dates back to the late 1800s. "I think it was only in the 1980s that clothing actually was accepted into the decorative arts world as something that was serious in terms of it having the equivalence in importance to other decorative arts."

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Jessie Matrullo, a fashion stylist and photographer at her studio on May 8, 2016, will be one of over 50 artists that will be opening their studios to the public during Yonkers Arts Weekend at the YoHo Studios on Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers. (Photo: Ricky Flores/The Journal News)

Matrullo points to sites like Etsy as examples that the public is developing an appreciation for the unique and vintage.

"It is a decorative art," she says. "It's just not a decorative art that's going to splash color into a space or form into a space. But it is a decorative art in terms of people wearing it and it having form and having beautiful textile or flow with movement."

In addition to the open studios, live music and light refreshments will help keep the fun going throughout the day.

"We want to get people here and keep them here while making it as family friendly as possible at the same time," Schultz says.

Printed handouts will be distributed during the event that will act as a guide.

As informative as a studio tour can be for a visitor, oftentimes it's the participating artists that take something away from the experience as well, allowing them to better present their studio and work in subsequent showings.



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George Gutierrez, painter and photographer at his studio on May 8, 2016, will be one of over 50 artists that will be opening their studios to the public during Yonkers Arts Weekend at the YoHo Studios on Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers. (Photo: Ricky Flores/The Journal News)

"I learn a lot about my work and I think all the artists do the same when we're exposed to the public like that, particularly with the volume of people that comes through," Schultz says.

"It's a complete educational, cultural experience for the artist and the visitor. We're here to entertain and in a lot of ways we're entertained in reverse."

IFYOUGO:

What: YoHo Open Studio Tours

When: 12-7 p.m. Saturday; 12-5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: YoHo Studios, 578 Nepperhan Ave. and the surrounding area, Yonkers.

More: Tours are free to attend. Find more information at yohoartists.org.

MORE ARTS WEEKEND FUN

While the open tours are a cornerstone of Arts Weekend, there's plenty more to see and do throughout the city. Here's a sneak peak at some of the other highlights.



A Kite Festival will be held at Hudson River Museum Saturday as part of Yonkers Arts Weekend. (Photo: Billy Echevarria)

Yonkers Downtown Waterfront will kick off Arts Weekend Saturday with a color run at 9 a.m. with a 5K color run through Van Der Donck Park (register at the colorvibe.com). Street art will be featured through the waterfront area all day, pop-up galleries can be seen from 12-5 p.m. and concerts will be presented at Getty Square.

The galleries will return from 12-5 p.m. Sunday and here will also be a daylong mural painting.

Untermeyer Gardens will be open to the public from sunrise to sunset both days with guided tours scheduled for 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tours are \$10; free for kids 12 and under. No reservations are required and tickets can be bought onsite. On Sunday, Untermeyer will host a fashion show from 2-4 p.m. that is free and open to the public. 945 North Broadway.



All outdoor events at Hudson River Museum Saturday will be free to attend. (Photo: Hudson River Museum)

The Hudson River Museum will take flight with a Kite Festival scheduled for 12-5 p.m. Saturday. Along with the kites, there will be food trucks, a scavenger hunt and kite competitions. Artist Jimmy Kuehnle will be on hand in his 12-foot inflatable suit; the Walking Fish, Solar Scientist Alan Bigelow and the Solar Punch Band will perform from 2:30-4 p.m. Rain date is Sunday.

In addition, family-friendly science and arts workshops will take place inside the museum both days. Visit hrm.org for more info. The outdoor Kite Festival is free to attend and admission to the museum is \$6; \$3 for kids. 511 Warburton Ave. 914-963-4550.

STILL NOT ENOUGH FOR

YOU?

If you didn't get your fill of the arts during Yonkers' weekend blowout, then mark your calendar for next weekend when Garner Arts Center will be celebrating its May Arts Festival in Rockland County.

Spanning 14 acres of industrial space, you can expect open studios, roaming performers, a robust musical lineup, kids activities, a beer garden, food and more. In honor of Haverstraw's 400th anniversary, a special "History of Haverstraw" exhibit will feature oral histories, history panels and other glimpses into the town's past.

The festival will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 21 and 22 rain or shine at 55 West Railroad Ave., Garnerville. Admission is \$7; \$5 for seniors and free for kids 14 and under.

For a full lineup of activities, map of the complex and more visit garnerartscenter.org.

