



More Art is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that fosters collaborations between professional artists and communities to create public art and educational programs that inspire social justice.

BUILDING STORIES: An Engaging Artists Exhibition

October 6th-15th, 2017

Flux Factory

39-31 29th Street, LIC

Hours — Wed-Sat and Sun, Oct 15:

12:00-6:00PM

[Facebook Event](#)

Opening: Friday, October 6th

5:00PM-9:00PM | [RSVP HERE](#)

Story Circle with Flux Factory, *Self Storage* and the Five Boro Story Project

Thursday, October 12

6:00PM-10:00PM | Potluck

Also opening on October 6th is **Self Storage**, curated by Will Owen

Join tours of storage units leaving from the gallery every half hour 5-7pm

Building Stories is an exhibition of recent works by More Art's 2016 Engaging Artists Fellowship focused on housing justice. Built to foster the early stages of long-term socially-engaged art projects, this unique fellowship supports emerging artists to build relationships with grassroots organizations through its four month professional development and volunteer programs.

Focusing on issues of gentrification, police brutality, affordable housing, preservation, and tenant rights, each Engaging Artists Fellow partners with community organizations throughout New York City, including: Chinatown Tenants Union, Movement for Justice en El Barrio, New York Cares, FUREE, Eviction Intervention Services, and Queens Neighborhoods United, among others. In order to forge meaningful exchanges between all participants, the exhibiting artists collaborate with each other and with the organizations while placing primacy on the needs of advocacy coalition and their constituents. The show brings to life the processes engaged by the collaborative teams, whether through documentary, art therapy, social practice, or storytelling.

Each project takes a critical approach to the way neighborhoods shape the lives of their inhabitants, how inhabitants shape the environments they call home and envision ways to contest space-based structural inequality and displacement. The projects in *Building Stories* take form as sculpture, installation, video, story circles, and photography. The exhibition as a whole envisions the city as a living ecology of generative feedback loops between infrastructure, power structures, individuals, and communities.

Participating Artists: **Bridget Bartolini and Five Boro Story Project, Dani DeLade, Alexander Dwinell Jonathan Gardenhire, Aneeta Mitha, Ilaria Ortensi, Aldo Soligno, Priscilla Stadler, and Cynthia Tobar**

For more information, contact Jeff Kasper: info@moreart.org | 646.416.6940 | www.moreart.org

Bridget Bartolini is a socially engaged artist and educator who uses story-sharing to strengthen community connections. Bridget launched the Five Boro Story Project in 2013 to produce community storytelling events that bring New Yorkers together through sharing true stories and art inspired by our neighborhoods. In *LIC and Astoria Love Letter*, viewers are invited to listen to stories from previous events, and add to a growing collection of “love letters” written for Long Island City and Astoria.

Dani DeLade is a Licensed Creative Art Therapist. *Where Shall We Go* is an ex-voto informed by DeLade’s experiences working with domestic violence survivors living in an emergency shelter while searching for affordable housing.

Alexander Dwinnele’s *Displaced (3xx)* is a video cityscape that simultaneously projects the news coverage of every person killed by police in their residence in the US so far this year. The installation makes clear that the legal system and those that enforce it serve to disrupt and destabilize community.

Jonathan Gardenhire is a photographer who has served as the Vice-President of the public housing development Smith House’s Resident Association Executive Board. Gardenhire will exhibit work from *Smith Water*, part of a photography series that explore the day-today lives of Smith Houses residents. The project functions as an expanded portrait that reframes negative portrayals of public housing residents.

Aneeta Mitha’s *A Body, A Home* is a photography and audio series that represents the experiences of Brooklyn residents who are dealing with gentrification and landlord abuse. Through compositing, the images elucidate how the loss of home, whether it is due to unsafe living conditions or being forced out, occupies the space within the body.

Ilaria Ortensi’s *The Two Cities* investigates how the construction and representation of space influence our contemporary imaginary. She uses both documentation and fiction to create photo-based and drawn images that viewers are encouraged to question.

Aldo Soligno and Cynthia Tobar’s *Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Stories of Community and Resilience* is a collaborative documentary video and photography project with the members of Silent Barn and the Hope Gardens Senior Center in Brooklyn. The project seeks to highlight the experiences of residents in public housing as they face the changes in their communities resulting from the conversion of diminishing affordable housing stock to market-rate condos.

Priscilla Stadler’s *Building the Movement: LIC [a.k.a. Beg, Borrow, or...]* is a site-specific installation of construction mesh from Long Island City. The material eludes to architecture’s impermanence, its psychological and cultural ramifications, and the precarious experiences of individuals and communities in the profit-driven landscape of NYC’s development.