

'Bronx Day' at the annual Armory Show features open art studios & exhibits in South Bronx

Celebration of the Arts in Bronx on Thursday

Bronx artists to be part of the Armory Show; first ever Armory Art Week to showcase talent in all boroughs

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by [Tanyanika Samuels](#) / Thursday, March 8, 2012

Artists, critics and collectors from around the world have descended on the city this week for the 14th annual Armory Show - and Bronx artists are getting in on the spectacle.

For the first time, the Armory Show is sponsoring a 'Bronx Day' on Thursday, March 8, featuring open studio tours and art exhibitions at several venues along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor. The events are part of Armory Arts Week, a celebration of the arts in each of the city's boroughs.

"It's our goal to reach as many people as possible," said [Michelle Darnell](#) with the Armory Show. "We do want people to come to the art fair and purchase art but it's also an event where people come to just look at the art. And we want that happening in the Bronx as well."

'Bronx Day' kicks off with afternoon tours of three artists studios in Mott Haven. "The open artist studios are really something special," Darnell said. "When you can go into an artist studio space and meet the artist and have that dialogue, it makes for a special experience."

Studio Building I at 250 E. 139th St. and Studio Building III at 220 E. 134th St. feature a varied collection of paintings, sculpture and mixed media works by such artists as [Juanita Lanzo](#), [John Ahearn](#) and Aristides Logothetis.

The group exhibition "Vital Signs" at Studio Building II (BronxArtSpace) 305 E. 140th St. showcases more than a dozen paintings and installations. "With this exhibit, I wanted to reveal the sophisticated level of art and good energy we have here in this small, interesting arts community," said curator and artist [Linda Cunningham](#). "We're not just hip hop."

The [Bruckner Bar & Grill](#) at 1 Bruckner Blvd. is hosting an arts reception and the group exhibit dubbed "We Are Here: Art IN the Bronx." A dozen artists from various cultural groups are showing their works. "We really wanted to have a Bronx presence in the Armory Show," said curator Chad Stayrook. "It's a way of telling people 'Hey, we're here. There's all this art happening in the Bronx.'"

Other event highlights include the ongoing mixed media exhibits "Toys & Games with a Twist" and "Stations of the Lost" at the Bronx Council on the Arts' Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos at 450 Grand Concourse; and the "[Juan Downey](#): The Invisible Architect" exhibit at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse.

Already, Darnell said, there is talk about the future. "We're hoping to expand it next year," she said, "and make it even better."

The Armory Show Bronx Day was a collaborative effort by Bronx artists and arts organizations, including the Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx River Art Center, BronxArtSpace, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and No Longer Empty. It consisted of an afternoon of visual art, food and drink, artist studio tours and exhibitions, and the above-mentioned BxArts Happy Hour at the Bruckner Bar & Grill.

For more information about Bronx Day and the Armory Show, visit [armoryartsweek.com](#). ■



Linda Cunningham, Curator of the Vital Signs exhibition, at BronxArtSpace at 305 East 140th Street.



Alexis Mendoza's "Conversation with the Earth and Shadows"



Barbara Korman's "Grey Intensity Suite"



Juanita Lanzo's "Pods in Yellow" .

All Photos: Michael Schwartz,
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