

city without walls

cWOW

AN URBAN GALLERY FOR EMERGING ART

NEWARK - CAN YOU BE THUS?

OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 9, 2013

CITY WITHOUT WALLS GALLERY
6 Crawford Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Hours: Wed-Sat, 12-6pm. cWOW is free and open to the public, and easily accessible by car or mass transit.

For directions and more info, visit www.cWOW.org or call 973-622-1188.

Funded in part by the Prudential and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundations, the City of Newark, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and through the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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Continued: Inside Back Cover

NEWARK - CAN YOU BE THUS?

SUPPORTERS

NEWARK - CAN YOU BE THUS?

NEWARK, CAN YOU BE THUS? A CREATIVE DE-STRUCTION

CURATOR

Melissa Marie Johnson

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, October 11, 6 - 9:30 pm
City Without Walls (cWOW)
6 Crawford Street, Newark, NJ

DATES, LOCATION & TIMES

October 11 – November 9, 2013
City Without Walls
Wed - Sat, 12 - 6 pm

ARTISTS

Jerome & Marylou Bongiorno
Jackie Cruz
Timothy Dingman
Matt Gosser
Akintola Hanif
Melissa Marie Johnson
John Masi
Cesar Melgar
Cortney Torres
Sue Zwick

CURATOR'S STATEMENT

A number of events marked the spring of 1916 in Newark. One was an epidemic of measles; another was the motormen and trolley workers' union stoning of non-union workers in a protest for higher wages and less hours. However, a much enduring one was the publication of competitive poems commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the city. The poetry competition—organized by the Committee of One Hundred—sought entries that regarded Newark with reverence, optimism, and progression. Two of the entries—one by Ezra Pound, and the other by Edward N. Teall—defied those parameters. Neither Pound nor Teall were residents of Newark, but their poems evoked sentiments that did anything but revere the city. Both portrayed Newark as a wanna-be, soulless city that could never match its bedfellow, New York City, not because Newark lacked a cultural wellspring, but because it was run by philistines and cor-

porate-minded rhetoricians so indifferent to "true beauty and order." Teall noted:

*Suppose Homer sang at the Four Corners!
Newark might pity his beard and blindness,
But for his verses—Poof!*

*If a poet walked through Broad Street,
Newark would laugh at his long hair,
Newark would jeer and jibe,
And in the end kill him with disregard...
Or spew him out of the corporate urban mouth.*

Like Teall, Pound warned that Apollo was not only a deity of the arts but also a god of destruction and adjudication. And Pound feared Newark's prevailing political climate—driven by ambition for wealth at the cost of enduring culture—would lead to the city's ultimate decline.

In the end, the Committee of One Hundred found their winner. Pound and Teall each won secondary prizes of \$50 and a publication of their poems; they were not handed Apollo's laurel or made immortal for a day, but they succeeded in uncovering the psychology of the city.

The title of this exhibition, *Newark Can You Be Thus?*, is a line adapted from Ezra Pound's poem. The exhibition explores what happens within the re-resurrection, restructuring, and undoing of an urban infrastructure through redevelopment for the purpose of restoration, preservation, and wealth creation. The re-devaluation of capital (the social and economic decline of a city) is a necessary outcome within the processes of gentrification. This binary opposition, the objective and subjective, is a way of pointing out the manner in which a city is held together. The binary tension exemplifies how all elements are held together: an element existing while others struggle to be born and the eventuality of a form giving way to its own evolution negatively or positively. Through the medium of photography/video various artists will exhibit their ideas of what they believe are creative destructive tensions in the undoing (fission) and rebuilding (fusion) of a city's substructures, superstructures, and human capital. They will explore whether an urban city's restructuring will be the rising tide that benefits its present dwellers or those who are yet to inhabit it. The exhibition will document the chain reactions, positive and negative, of this process and engage the thoughts of viewers as to whether enough human capital, culture and resources are being liberated to all.

Melissa Marie Johnson 2013

Please see *Curator's Acknowledgements* on the Price List page.

NEWARK - CAN YOU BE THUS?

MELISSA MARIE JOHNSON

NEWARK - CAN YOU BE THUS? ... JEROME & MARYLOU BONGIORNO



Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno, *Military Park*, 2009, from *New Work: Newark in 3D*, image courtesy of and © Bongiorno Productions Inc.

Birthplace: Belleville NJ and Brooklyn, NY.
Education: NYU, New York City, NY, MFA Film, 1999. **Exhibitions:** Newark Museum, Newark, NJ, 2009-10. Museum of the City of New York, 2010.

New Work: Newark in 3D is an immersive 3D interpretation of the avant-garde film *Manhatta* (1921) set in the filmmakers' home city of Newark, NJ, with spoken word poetry and the music of Newark-based artists. It is a cinematic arc from sunrise to sunset that captures the city's business districts, port and transit hubs to its parks, parades, grand public monuments, places of worship and iron bridges.

