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## Art

### Highlights From Brooklyn's Sunset Park Open Studios

Annesta Le's ethereal neon sculptures, Eun Young Choi's hand-cut vinyl works, and other standouts from this weekend's event.



Rhea Nayyar  
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Last Sunday, October 15, artist Carol Scavotto led a conversation related to her work currently displayed in *What Would Your Husband Think?*, a joint exhibition at Thomas VanDyke Gallery during the 2023 iteration of Sunset Park Open Studios. (all photos Rhea Nayyar/*Hyperallergic*)

While extended rain showers soaked New York City for the sixth Saturday in a row, the South Brooklyn neighborhood of Sunset Park invited visitors to drop into several arts spaces throughout the weekend for its annual open studios event celebrating the area's expanding creative community. Dozens of participating venues nestled within industrial scapes and residential streets opened their doors for art aficionados and unassuming passersby alike.

Taking a leaf from Bushwick and Gowanus, Sunset Park Wide Open debuted its new rebrand as Sunset Park Open Studios starting last Friday evening, October 13. Welcoming back a variety of community staples and introducing a handful of new participants, the open studios event, organized by the New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation since 2019, is now the starter project of the newly formed Sunset Park Wide Open nonprofit organization made up of local arts and fabrication spaces looking to engage with the neighborhood beyond the annual event.

The shared building housing J&M Studios and the NARS Foundation was buzzing with excited visitors convening with artists whose doors were open to the public on Friday night. Program Manager Katherine Plourde told *Hyperallergic* that

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some 400 visitors bounced between the two floors throughout the duration of the weekend, noting that it was the “best turnout they’d ever had” in spite of Saturday’s gloomy rain showers.



Left: Jeremiah Teipen projected his animations onto an arrangement of mirrors so that the clips would project across the walls and ceilings of the J&M studio; Right: Sunset Park-based artist and art therapist Margot Werner’s soft, irregularly shaped textile paintings

Special highlights on the second floor J&M studios included Sunset Park-based artist and art therapist Margot Werner’s textile, embroidery, and painting practice unpacking memories associated with specific interior spaces, and the joint display of Jeremiah Teipen’s projected and reflected animations in conjunction with Eun Young Choi’s ultra-precise hand-cut vinyl works. Up on the fourth floor, newly arrived NARS resident and Melbourne artist Sue Beyer had already outfitted her studio with explorations of self-portraiture through ad data and machine learning.

Christina Massey, a long-term resident of Sunset Park and brand-new resident at Art Cake, echoed last year’s open studios participants’ sentiments about how Bushwick became too expensive to sustain an art practice, and that the South Brooklyn neighborhood offered more material resources, easier transit, and overall a better atmosphere to work and commune in.

“I just feel like everyone wants to help each other out,” she told *Hyperallergic*. “It’s very communal — like a team — rather than competitive. Since there’s only so many places to visit, so why not support each other?”

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Yi Gallery and Thomas VanDyke Gallery both returned to the program roster for their second year and hit the ground running. The former, based in Building 2 of Industry City, had been completely blacked out from floor to ceiling for *Eternal Current*, a solo presentation of Bushwick artist Annesta Le's new neon works centered on fluidity and dreams. Illuminated by the soft blue light emanating from the neons, gallerist Cecilia Zhang Jalboux shared that she felt more embedded in the Sunset Park community since her participation in last year's Open Studios, and that as a board member of the new Sunset Park Wide Open nonprofit, she's excited to collaborate with neighborhood advocacy organizations for unique programming.



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Rhode Island artist Carol Scavotto's Shunga-inspired dyed silk embroidery took center stage in the newly unveiled rear exhibition space at Thomas VanDyke Gallery, while Zhen Guo's lacquered paper-mache breasts studded the largest wall in the gallery's main space during the opening reception of *What Would Your Husband Think?* last Sunday, October 15.

Thomas VanDyke Gallery held an opening reception on Sunday, welcoming visitors to be among the first to view *What Would Your Husband Think?*, a two-person show elevating the feminist practices of Zhen Guo and Carol Scavotto. The gallery recently expanded the back portion of their premises for additional exhibition space since it opened in July 2022.

Joining the weekend programming for the first time was the Context Space just outside of Industry City. The artist-run gallery and publishing platform was open for the weekend, showcasing their member exhibition *Submerging* — the last show to take place in the space before the gallery becomes nomadic for the foreseeable future. One of Context's founding artists, Joshua Nierodzinski, told *Hyperallergic* that the new art endeavor landed up in the Sunset Park gallery space thanks to a chance suggestion from a friend, but settled in quite neatly with the neighborhood's warm arts community.

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“We definitely want to stay in Sunset Park if we can find another space to work in,” Nierodzinski said.



Thiago Szmrecsanyi's untitled wall-hanging made from woven cardboard and caution tapes shown alongside a painting by Gocha Tsinadaze in *Submerging* at Context Space, just outside of Industry City

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Cake Resident Christina Massey's latest artistic endeavor combines her reuse of aluminum craft beer cans with bulges of glass blown through arrangements of stripped copper wire.

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Annesta Le's new neon works emit a soft blue light that sings against the black walls and floors of Yi Gallery in Industry

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Jeremiah Teipen's projected animations shuttling across the hyperdetailed hand-cut vinyl works of Eun Young Choi at J&M Studios

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Rhea Nayyar (she/her) is a New York-based teaching artist who is passionate about elevating minority perspectives within the academic and editorial spheres of the art world. Rhea received her BFA in Visual... **More by Rhea Nayyar**