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Yonkers as Gallery

By SUSAN HODARA APRIL 26, 2014

A video installation in a pop-up gallery, a fashion show in a garden, artist studio tours — these and more are part of the first Yonkers Arts Weekend. Organized by the City of Yonkers, the event next weekend aims to showcase the breadth of artistic activity throughout the city with exhibitions, performances and public art.

Programming will take place at four locations, accessible via free shuttle buses. YoHo Artist Studios, in the old Alexander Smith carpet mills, is hosting the 11th annual YoHo Artists Open Studio. Fifty artists will welcome guests, among them Catherine Latson, who uses organic materials to make garmentlike sculptures, and Librado Romero, a painter (and former photographer for The New York Times) whose sprawling work space teems with fanciful landscapes.

The natural landscape sets the stage at the historic and glorious Untermyer Gardens. In an amphitheater flanked by sphinxes sculpted by Paulanship, Marshall Field and Company, a bluegrass band of Sarah Lawrence College students will perform on Saturday, and “Fashion as Art: A Runway Exhibit,” organized by the Fashion Institute of Technology’s Urban Studio, will take place on Sunday. Garden tours will be offered both days.

The shuttle stops farther south at the Hudson River Museum, where the exhibition “The Art of Video Games,” investigates the games’ evolution over four

decades. Also on view are selected Hudson River School paintings and “The Bookstore,” the multimedia artist Red Grooms’s topsy-turvy, room-size installation.

Downtown, exhibitions include paintings by Satish Joshi at Blue Door Gallery and YonkersArts’ “Sixth Annual Yonkers Artist Showcase” at the Riverfront Library. Works by Urban Studio and Torche’ Galerie artists will fill 10,000 square feet at the iPark Hudson office complex, and Vinnie Bagwell’s “Enslaved Africans’ Rain Garden,” at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, will feature maquettes of five life-size figures who will inhabit the artist’s proposed sculpture garden commemorating the manor’s former slaves.

Visitors can wander through Van der Donck Park, where the recently unearthed, or “daylighted,” Saw Mill River flows, and along the riverfront, where sculptures adorn the esplanade. Or they can climb inside Isra Abdo’s sculpture of a largemouth bass at the Center for the Urban River at Beczak and experience the Hudson from a fish’s point of view.

Correction: May 11, 2014

An article in some editions on April 27 about the Yonkers Arts Weekend omitted a group of artists whose work was displayed at the iPark Hudson office complex. Besides artists from Urban Studio, artists from the Torche’ Galerie also exhibited their work. Yonkers Arts Weekend takes place May 3 and 4. Shuttle buses will run to and from the MetroNorth train station between 1 and 6 p.m. For more information: yonkersny.gov.

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