



**COUNTY OF HUDSON  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS  
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Art Exhibit**

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***METROPOLITAN MEMORIES***  
**September 29, 2009 – November 6, 2009**  
**The Brennan Gallery in the Theodore Conrad Rotunda**  
**Justice Brennan Court House**  
**583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306**  
**201-459-2070/1-800-542-7894 [www.visithudson.org](http://www.visithudson.org)**  
**Artists Reception: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.**  
**Gallery hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**



Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development (HCOCHA/TD) is pleased to present its 2009 Arts Annual *Metropolitan Memories* in the Brennan Gallery located in the Theodore Conrad Rotunda of the Justice Brennan Court House, 583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City. The exhibition opens with a reception on Tuesday, September 29th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00p.m. and runs through November 6<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition will also be open to the public during the weekend of the Jersey City artists Studio Tour, Saturday and Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon – 6:00p.m. The curator Mara Miller will be available during the Jersey City Studio Tour to greet visitors.

The works of 27 artists from the NJ/NY metropolitan area are represented – paintings, photography, sculpture and mixed media - in the exhibition, curated by Mara Miller, independent curator and Director of 511 Gallery and 511 Projects NYC and Lake Placid.

(more)

Metropolitan Memories seeks to explore and raise questions about migration and diaspora among artists who have relocated but whose work is rooted in memories of previous sites. “I looked at contemporary art being made beyond the 212 and 718 area codes, hoping to witness some process or experience shared by those whose homelands were outside the U.S. and those whose original landscapes are in America but not where they now live and make art”, explained Ms. Miller.

“The painter Ken Jan Woo, who now lives in Union City, NJ for instance, was born in Shanghai, moved to America at the age of five, was trained in art in Florence, Oxford, Beijing and the New York Academy of Art in Tribeca. His paintings reflect elements of both Eastern and Western cultures, forming a bridge between the two, internalized in his own adult identity. Another artist in the exhibit, Brian Le Boeuf, also schooled at the New York Academy of Art, is of Cajun heritage, hailing from Houma, Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico. He is now a “Brooklyn artist”. Le Boeuf’s paintings are figurative, about human relationships that occur in the present, but they are hugely informed by the landscape and issues of the American South”.

“In our current discourse about the displacement of peoples,” said Ms Miller, “we sometimes overlook the effects of migration and relocation on our own so-called native-born people and including those making art. It may well be that artists in this exhibition are more alike for being artists than they are dissimilar for having been born in Hong Kong, Turkey, Puerto Rico, Philadelphia or Jersey City. The show hopes to highlight both the shared and divergent aspects of identity.”

Ms. Miller added: “I have organized group exhibitions in New York City, upstate New York, Canada and Europe and am amazed at the cultural diversity represented in this exhibition. I would like to think it was due to the curatorial theme, but I rather suspect that it has more to do with the multifaceted, mixed communities of people and artists that thrive in a place such as urban New Jersey/New York and perhaps particularly in Hudson County”.

Metropolitan Memories is sponsored by Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive, the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development. (HCOCHA/TD) The Brennan Gallery is a fully accessible venue. For more information please call 201-459-2070.