

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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City Hall to Showcase the 25th Anniversary of Traveling Show “cWOW’s Metro 25” Separate Show featuring Rising Artist Karen Carattini

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will host an opening reception for two shows, “METRO 25 – Traveling Small Works Exhibition” and “Karen Carattini – Solo Exhibition” from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at City Hall, 280 Grove Street.**

“METRO 25” marks the 25th anniversary of City Without Walls’ (cWOW) traveling small works show.

City Without Walls (cWOW) has been in operation since 1975 and is New Jersey's oldest not-for-profit alternative art space. It is an urban gallery of emerging art that advances the careers of artists while providing the public a chance to understand and enjoy challenging contemporary art. cWOW, whose home is the City Without Walls Gallery in Newark, showcases more than 100 artists both on-site and off-site, and through traveling exhibitions.

This year, the show will feature the following artists: Katherine Sullivan, Francesca Azzara, Elizabeth Mead, Andrea Morganstern, Danielle Auriemma-D Amico, Will Suarez, Ali Soltani, Kelly Vetter, Michael Teters, Vikki Michalios, Oliver Diaz, Matthew Ortega, Marco Munoz, Beth Gilfilen, Gene Wisniewski, Patricia Bender, Alyssa Fanning, Joan M. Palmer, Jason Watson, Jym Paris, Sherry Shine, Colleen Gutwein, Rachel Beach, Jay Seldin, Joe Waks, Anne Dushanko Dobek, Firth Macmillan, E. Jan Kounitz, Jo Bradney, Amy Hill, Patricia F. Cleary, Dan Zomack, Nyugen E. Smith, Werner Foster, Mansa Pryor, David Sutton III, Larry McKim, Kenneth Burde, Gina Bellando, Aliza Augustine, Mark R. Wojcik, Aimee Hertog, Joan Sonnenfeld, David Vega, Tony Zaza, Debra Weber, Francine LeClercq, Cortney Burke, Robert McCormack, Carlo Vialu, Kentaro Hiramatsu, Anker West, Neal Korn and Edward C. Long.

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The other show is a solo exhibition by **Karen Carattini** who is a rising artist and a native of Jersey City. Karen Carattini's work features compositions that range from the realistic to the abstract. Her extraordinary uniqueness is depicted in her pieces that make use of "ghost images" of flowers that add dimension to her work as well as those with a textile look.

For Karen Carattini, art is not only a passion for her, but has become a kind of refuge for her to overcome her challenges. Carattini has Cerebral Palsy, but she remains independent, works as a Jersey City Police operator and uses art as a therapeutic outlet. Karen Carattini believes that art has saved her life and has made her stronger.

“The first exhibition of the year is one that demands commendation,” **Mayor Healy** said. “The two shows featured in City Hall are both momentous and inspirational. cWOW celebrates the 25th Anniversary of their traveling show and the solo exhibit by Karen Carattini displays her creativity despite her physical limitations. Carattini is a role model who offers hope for others to follow as she has proven that one can overcome any obstacle in pursuit of their dreams.”

The reception is free and open to the public and is handicap accessible. Refreshments will be served.

The show, which is curated by City Hall Art Curator Greg Brickey, will run through the end of this month. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.///

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