

Chashama's Open Studios another success at Brooklyn Army Terminal

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BROOKLYN MEDIA GROUP/Photos by Jaime DeJesus
Artist Yana Dimitrova

A work of art in Sunset.

Works created by the community's up-and-coming artists were on display at the Brooklyn Army Terminal on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26 for the annual Chashama Open Studios.

The massive venue featured 93 diverse artists, each of them offering something vastly different for the nearly 1,000 attendees, including sculptures, paintings,

photography and more. Chashama is a non-profit organization that provides space for artists.

Sunset Park resident Yana Dimitrova enjoys Open Studios. She's been a part of it since 2010. "It's really nice to have this event here," she said. "One of best things about it is that people from the building come to see us and there's so many diverse types of businesses that people working around here get to see.

"I live at Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street. I come here on my bike and it's great. I never leave Sunset Park," she said. "It's really good. It's a wonderful community. People are really family oriented here and I feel comfortable."

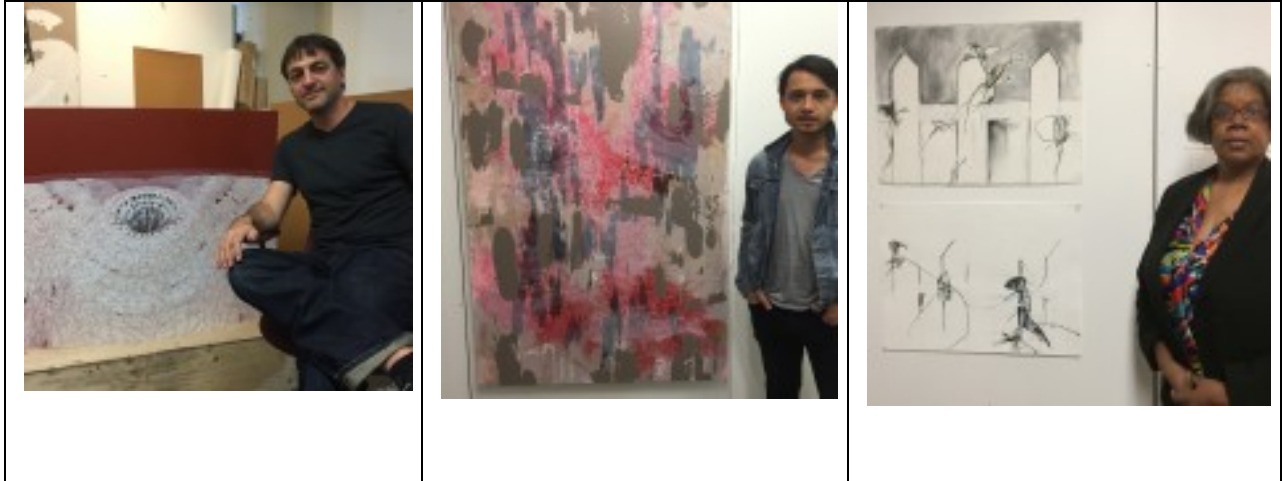
Dimitrova's art is unique in that it mixes technology with traditional media. "It's mostly oil paintings and embroideries," she said. "I love to do both though they're both labor-intensive. And the oil paintings are images from Google Street View. I'm originally from Bulgaria and I've gone on Google Maps and found parts of the world that I've lived in. And I've looked at different areas where I've lived for my relatives and try to portray them as they were represented in the digital space."

Carolyn Martin, who painted several white picket fences, was happy to be a part of the select few that participate in the space. "I like the idea of having an exchange with other artists," she said. "To me, it's really important to have the exchange. I've received a lot of good responses from people."

First time artist at Open Studio Michael Watson was thrilled to share his art with his peers and art lovers. "I think it's great that they're starting to coordinate events at the same time," he said. "I'd like to see even more." His work included wood carvings and some mixed media painting, "With all of my work, I use rice in some way. I'm trying to bring an image to something has not been seen."

Attendees also enjoyed the diverse art. "It's fantastic that there's this kind of studio space available for people which is really hard to find in New York," said Sunset Park resident, Hilary North, who attends the event regularly. "There's a great use in space and a lot of variety among the artists. "

Artistic Director for Chashama, Anita Durst was pleased with the annual event held in Sunset. "It's been going on about seven years. We have about 700 students on the waiting list," she said. "We have a lot of artists participating from the Sunset community along with some from outside. We usually get 1,000 people showing up for the event. We're expecting the same amount this year.



Photos by Jamie DeJesus

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