

OUT THERE

Locals used to drive by the Nevada Motel thinking it was on



Art

They're rolling up the sidewalks for the winter along our coastline. The leaves are leaving, and motel vacancy signs glimmer in the night. But there's a last hurrah here



the wrong strip. But in one night, it turned from motel to art exhibit.



Happens

STORY & DESIGN BY ARIEL L. MARTIN

in York, something that's gathering a curious crowd of a thousand people carrying plastic cups filled with wine and plates topped with Mexican food. They walk in and out of a sea-

side motel on this otherwise silent night, shedding new light on what can happen during the slow season in a beach town.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ARIEL MARTIN(2); SS ARTSPACE; ARIEL MARTIN(6); JESS LAUREN LIPTON; ARIEL MARTIN(10); PATTI GRAVEL



MAINE STATE BALLET

2011-2012



The Nutcracker

Saturday, November 26 at 2pm & 7pm;
Sunday, November 27 at 2pm;

Friday, December 2 at 7pm;
Saturday, December 3 at 2pm & 7pm;
Sunday, December 4 at 2pm
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Tap, Tap, Jazz

Saturday, January 14 at 4pm & 7pm;
Saturday, January 21 at 4pm & 7pm
Maine State Ballet Theater, Falmouth

Swan Lake

Saturday, March 31 at 2pm;
Sunday, April 1 at 2pm
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Merrill Auditorium Ticketing through PortTix
tickets.porttix.com or 207-842-0800
Maine State Ballet Theater Ticketing through
www.mainestateballet.org or 207-781-3587



Built in 1952, The Nevada Motel hosts a night of contemporary art before closing for the winter.

The Nevada Motel dares to disturb, with its Atomic Period architecture, turquoise green door frames, and jolting patio floors. Tonight, there is a change of venue here at the instigation of **3S ARTSPACE** of Portsmouth. Streamers cover the railings on the second floor with an array of colors mixing and flitting in the coastal winds. People driving around Long Sands Beach slow to look at the creation, this last outpost in the quiet town. Twenty-one rooms are flung open to the crowds, and it's the artists' (15 visiting, six local) will to do with them what they may, one per room. This art-happening shows these rooms can be so much more than warped paneling and singing faucets.

It tickles the voyeur in us to intrude on this instant art. Each installation reveals a different world, some thoughtful, some sexy. Artists work around beds, showers, sinks and desks, some suggesting the audience

Visit Instant Art

Ellen Wieske at Gallery 1 at Center of Contemporary Art
October 1 - December 11 2011

Gabriella D'Italia & George Mason at Gallery 2 at Center of Contemporary Art
October 1 - December 11 2011

Deborah Wing-Sproul at Gallery 3 at Center of Contemporary Art
October 1 - December 11 2011

Zach Poff + N.B. Aldrich at Gallery 4 at Center of Contemporary Art
October 1 - December 11 2011

Amy Stacey Curtis at June Fitzpatrick Gallery
October 22-November 18, 2011

Gerald Robinov at UNE Art Gallery
November 9 - February 12, 2012

Perpetual Present at MECA
November 17- December 23 2011



has caught them in mid-undress. Sculptures perch on pillows and paintings hang over TV screens. Large tarps block out the windows, movies project onto walls, and cas-

This one really left the yard. Sunny Sliger and Marianne Newsom leave their installation and head toward the beach.



cading sheets hang from the ceiling. It's as if the motel is collaborating with the artists to make this extraordinary night come to life.

Sarah Baldwin, of Wells, is excited. "I started doing installation art about a year ago, but this one is really a fun challenge. It's more confined," more intimate, explosive. Her room is stippled with hand-drawn, anthropomorphic faces that come to life with changing musical breezes. "My inspiration comes from cartoons and Keith Haring." Visitors are on the hook to draw their own face and tape them up, too.

(Continued on page 70)

Check-in to 21 Rooms

- ROOM 1** **3S ARTSPACE**, the Portsmouth organizer of 21 Rooms, hosts a lounge where you can meet the board members and enjoy refreshments. 3sarts.org
- ROOM 2** **TRACY WALTER FERRY**, of Chesire, Connecticut, fills her room with genetically modified organisms, creatures in video feeds, and stark white skin. tracywalterferry.com
- ROOM 2A** Portland local **JESSICA LAUREN LIPTON** sits at the vanity, applying her makeup. A sign encourages the guests to dip their hands in bits of charcoal to leave their mark on her skin. popkilledculture.blogspot.com
- ROOM 3** **ANDREW NEUMANN**, of Boston, projects his fused videos onto the walls, mixing two versions of *Psycho*, moving between Hitchcock and Van Sant every few frames. adneumann.com; youtube.com/watch?v=Azoh_6RJ3AY
- ROOM 3A** **BENNET MORRIS**, from Portland, shows what could be the distant future in her films: Fog rolls over an iron wreckage and other projections of tomorrow. bennettmorris.com
- ROOM 4** Wells artist **SARAH BALDWIN** covers her room with drawings. The various styles depict our changing perception of communication. She encourages guests to participate and post more paper. maudart.weebly.com
- ROOM 5** **KATHERINE DOYLE**, of New Castle, New Hampshire, creates a forest with **BRAD GORDON** and **IVAN STANEK**. This room of reflection then leads you outside where a labyrinth helps clear your mind. katherinedoyle.com
- ROOM 6** **TARA MERENDA NELSON**, **GORDON NELSON** and **FRANKIE SYMONDS**, all from Boston, turn their room into a motel cinema. Guests watch Super 8 home movies while listening to 45 rpm records. taranelsonfilms.blogspot.com; mrgordonnelson.blogspot.com; vimeo.com/taranelson
- ROOM 7** **JACQUELINE WEAVER**, of Troy, New York, pieces together a fake history of York. A film projects onto strips of tulle, blurring each time it passes through. jacquelineweaver.com
- ROOM 8** **BILL CIFUNI**, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, transforms his room to look like 1950s vacationers have come to visit. A video plays, detailing the personal history of one man. billcifuni.com
- OLIVE** **CATEY DE LA PENA**, of York, the youngest member of the experience at just 10 years old, shows off how nature can be so different each time you look at it through her drawings.
- ROOM 9** Portlander **JULIE POITRAS SANTOS** dresses in all white and starts to unravel a new, white marine rope while multiple lines are read from past York resident May Sarton's journal. juliepoitrasantos.com
- ROOM 21** **ABBEY OZANICH**, from Chicago, sets up a place to send out postcards with pictures of airplanes distant in the sky. You can send them to anyone anywhere, hoping they will send it on to the next person. abbeyozanich.com
- ROOM 22** Boston artist **DOUGLAS URBANK** projects an array of films transfers from 16mm and 8mm around his DJ setup, combining produced and found footage. youtube.com/watch?v=jWtmV8MG98w
- ROOM 22A** **KATIE HICKMAN**, from Brooklyn, hangs paintings of her own around her room. Neon colors and jarring angles disorient the viewer. katiehickman.tumblr.com; vimeo.com/user2083921
- ROOM 23** **SUNNY SLIGER** and **MARIANNE NEWSOM** of Dallas cover the inside and outside of their room in plastic streamers. Covered themselves, they dance around the grassy courtyard. A video shows where the streamers were made. sunny-sliger.blogspot.com
- ROOM 23A** **SHAWN GILHEENEY** and model **WILLA VAN NOSTRAND**, from Providence, Rhode Island turn the room into 1934 with time-appropriate clothing. A large column in the middle of the rooms displays a large ship, giving a sense of distance. shawn-gilheeneey.com
- ROOM 24** Brooklyn resident **ELIZABETH DONSKY** displays her work everywhere she can. Maps, books, paper documents, and digital images create an environment reflective of our changing association with the world. local-artists.org/user/4901
- ROOM 25** Indianapolis' **LORI MILES** lets a solar powered cockroach run on and on under a light, creating an eerie clicking noise as a large ball inflates in the middle of the room, building up a question of empathy. lorimiles.com
- ROOM 26** **CYNTHIA McLAUGHLIN**, of Colrain, Massachusetts, creates a nest out of the items in her room, finding the challenge of gestating the objects. cynthiamclaughlin.com; youtube.com/watch?v=k84H-UyZOI
- ROOM 27** Dover artist **CARLY GLOVINSKI** transforms her room into a construction site, covering everything she can with Tyvek. carlyglovinski.com
- ROOM 28** **LINDSEY WOLKOWICZ** and **DILLON PAUL**, from Brooklyn, extend the lines of the room with Plexiglass and wood. A woman moves about slowly, creating new lines and curves by distorting the view. lindseyawolkowicz.com & dillonpaul.com; vimeo.com/user2101271
- ROOM 29** **STEPHANIE CORNELL**, from Portsmouth, projects her experiences as a traveler on the windows of her room. She encourages viewers to perceive the world through these same lenses. stephaniecornell.com

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OUT THERE



Co-curators John Gayle and Quinn Corey chose the Nevada Motel because of its striking art deco design and whimsical feel.

Art Happens (continued from page 25)

In Jessica Lauren Lipton's interactive room, you are encouraged to clean your hands, dip them in powdered charcoal, and make marks on her skin. Yes, you have to touch this Portland artist. People are rather squeamish to do this at first, but as the night goes on you are more likely to leave their mark. "I didn't want to do this in Portland," Lipton laughs. "I don't want to be at work [bartending at Empire Dine and Dance] and suddenly have someone walk up and say, 'Hey I touched you.'"

Video presentations also flirt with our conventions and adjust the thermostats on our comfort zones. Jacqueline Weaver, from Troy, New York, rips York's history inside out and projects it onto sheets of tulle reaching all the way to the floor, each spaced by a ceiling tile. Between these layers of diaphanous white fabric are benches for visitors to watch a movie beaming through the translucent strips. "The multiple projections through the layers provide a dream-like atmosphere for the piece, reference the textiles and clothing in the dress scenes, and create a [wistful sense of the] generational loss of the projected image, much like the loss of our original histories. It also allows the shadows of viewers to enter the projections as they walk through the layers, implicating them in this invented history." Weaver describes her piece "trying to be a nightmare. Looking at all of the projections together, you gather the jarring sight of a history blurred by each filter it pierces."

The art isn't just inside the rooms. Katherine Doyle, from New Castle, calls her space outside a "labyrinth" to help participants move from one state of mind to the next. Red ribbons hanging from a wire direct you to the entrance. "You can write something on

these—something personal, something you'd like to let go of—hang your streamer on the line, and then go into your labyrinth. The twists and turns help it get out of your head. There's a discovery period where you're spiraling in taut, white canvas walls. "When you emerge, you're facing the ocean." The water sparkles just across the road. Surprised by your sense of calm, you realize instant art is about this very instant and you are part of the exhibit.

Don't even think of checking out. Sounds stream from windows and lights flicker through open doors. Some artists-in-character perform like seaside guests in their rooms, packing and unpacking from decades of lost summers while still more slip out of their units to rub elbows with their friends—a chain reaction. It's like creativity is exploding through the TVs, the neon lights, the vacation-weary humanity, tossing different styles into each open room. Sometimes it's true. Art happens. ■



Participants are invited to experience the art by walking around, through, and under it when possible.