

Saturday, May 2, 2015
Peekskill, New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Flatz Properties to be a Host Location for Peekskill Open Studios, June 6 & 7, 2015

Monica Flaherty, founder of The Flatz Properties, LLC, welcomes Peekskill's Open Studios to her flagship building at 1008 Main Street in the heart of Downtown Peekskill. The show is titled, "Art in Buildings, Buildings in Art," and will be open from 12-5pm on June 6th and 7th.

Flaherty approached The Peekskill Arts Alliance (PAA) about being a venue at the 18th annual art show, and was met with great enthusiasm. PAA president, Maureen Winzig, was blown away by the venue: "The space has such a creative vibe, fantastic light, and is one of the best locations in the city." The Flatz supports local artists, believing that great art challenges us, and connects us with ourselves and our community.

Open Studios coincides with Flaherty's grand opening of the building, a 150 year old structure beautifully renovated under Monica's artful eye: Decorative moldings, hardwood floors, high ceilings, and custom paint colors adorn what was built as a hotel in 1865.

A featured artist at the show will be Peekskill's own Carla Rae Johnson. Having received a BS from Ball State University, and an MFA from the University of Iowa, Ms. Johnson has been making and teaching art for nearly 30 years. She is currently a Professor of Art at Westchester Community College, SUNY.

Local artist Lawrence Flood will also join the show. Flood earned a BFA from the school of Visual Arts in 1980, and shares his pen and ink line drawings, as well as some new full color works.

A unique addition to the show is New Rochelle artist, Aaron Stone. Stone studied at the School of Visual Arts and received a Master's in Art education from Columbia University Teachers College. His work is published in The New Yorker, Sports Illustrated and many other periodicals. Currently, Stone is the art teacher at the Murray Avenue School.

N. Christopher Rigney is bringing the democratization of portraiture to Open Studios through the Peekskill Open Studios Live Portrait Experience. He believes that portrait painting should be accessible to the masses, not only a select few. During Open Studios, Christopher will be painting quick study portraits on a walk-in basis. All that is required is that you share a bit of your time. Christopher received his BFA from Emerson College, as well as a degree in Trompe l'oeil from Institut Guegan in France.

A full list of artists and details about the show can be found at www.theflatz.com/openstudios. The Flatz is adding new artists, artisans and other surprises weekly, so check back often.

The Open Studios exhibit embodies the heart and soul of Flaherty's concept for the building: A creative ecosystem where individuals collaborate, meet, and create. Her building will be home to co-spacing as well as artisan incubator initiatives. Her vision of development is informed by her love of growing community infrastructure, cohesion, and vibrancy. Peekskill is the perfect foundation for Flaherty's important work.

Monica Flaherty is a graduate of Harvard University. After more than 20 years of real estate investing in Boston, she brings her resources and talent to Upper Westchester. She resonates with fellow artists as a semi-professional photographer and jazz singer herself. When not developing properties or consulting, Monica can be found working in the garden or enjoying time with her family.



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