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**Annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour (A.G.A.S.T.)
Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, 2009 1-6 PM**

BROOKLYN, NY — June 1, 2009 — On Saturday and Sunday October 17-18, 2009, the artists of Gowanus, Brooklyn will open their studios, free to the public, from 1-6 PM. Bounded by Fifth Avenue, 10th Street, Smith Street, and Baltic Street, Gowanus lies between Park Slope and Carroll Gardens. This self-guided walking tour features over 150 artists in 28 different locations.

IMBY. The work produced in New York City has become less tangible over the years. Manufacturing is scarcer, the print shops of Varick Street have gone digital, the stink and sweat of the Fulton Fish Market is not fit for condominiums. The Gowanus Canal is a historic industrial waterway where physical work necessary to the life of the City is still done. There are concrete plants where stone is pounded, petroleum transfer stations, scrap heaps where the skeletal remains of cars are sorted by giant steel claw machines with surprising delicacy. Gravel and steel are ferried along the Canal on barges shepherded by tugboats, stopping traffic as they pass through drawbridges. This is real work that cannot be done elsewhere, yet is also stuff people do not want in their back yards. Who wants a concrete plant next door? The answer is artists, who also engage in concrete work, made by hand, right here and now – and also necessary to the life of the City. The industrial buildings and working atmosphere of Gowanus comprise a perfect incubator for contemporary art.

Open Studios. Each year the artists of Gowanus organize the Annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour to welcome the public into their studios. There are painters and sculptors, ceramists and glass artists, designers, artists working in installation, fiber, film, video and photography. On the weekend of the Tour, all of the participating studio buildings are open to the public free of charge, and the artists are present in their studios to greet visitors and speak with them about their work. For visitors the Tour provides a unique opportunity to learn about art-making directly from those who make it. Nothing in the gallery or museum world matches this intimate meeting with artists in their private studios.

Visiting the Tour. The website www.AGASTBrooklyn.com provides complete visitor information and features a virtual gallery with images of each artist's work. A.G.A.S.T. welcomes visitors of all ages, and Gowanus is easily accessible by public transportation. A.G.A.S.T. provides visitors with a map of the neighborhood on which participating artists are listed individually, and all studio locations and nearby subway stops are pinpointed. Maps will be available at every participating studio location, and can also be downloaded from the website.

The Annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour is a New York State nonprofit and 501(c)(3) organization.

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