

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

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Volume 50, No. 27, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004 E-mail: edit@brooklyneagle.net

& DAILY BULLETIN

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120 Works on Paper Up For Grabs in Red Hook



Florence Neal, right, is the director of the Kentler International Drawing Space in Red Hook. At the end of the month, this non-profit will host a benefit in which 120 works by artists, including the widely respected Elizabeth O'Reilly, left, will be up for grabs.

Eagle photo by Jennifer Needleman

By Jennifer Needleman
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

RED HOOK — Although it has been a part of Red Hook for nearly 15 years, and although it has accomplished some amazing things in its lifetime, the Kentler International Drawing Space remains largely a secret. The sales might be made in Chelsea or SoHo, but everyone knows by now that the roots of art in New

York reside in Brooklyn. The Kentler gallery is a grass-roots kind of place — a place where artists show for other artists, not for buyers.

Local artists of all kinds have shown in the Kentler, as have artists from around the globe.

"It's not a commercial space, so you can experiment," said board-member and widely recognized Brooklyn painter Elizabeth O'Reilly. "It's wonderful!"

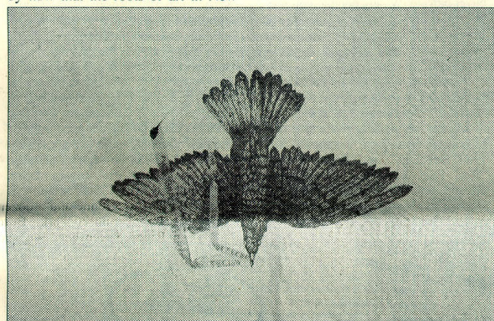
Run by Florence Neal, who is a Brooklyn artist in her own right, the attitude at the Kentler isn't so much "anything goes" as "the sky's the limit." From large scale, interactive installations to long-term neighborhood outreach projects, the Kentler has seen some of the most creative work in New York City.

For the second year in a row, the non-profit Kentler will be holding its annual benefit, which will take place in the gallery on Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m. One hundred and twenty artists have donated works to the space, and attendees will have the opportunity to take home one of the pieces. A raffle ticket of sorts comes with the \$100 price of admission, and the power to choose is meted out by a drawing.

Tensions, believe it or not, run high. Typically, attendees will peruse the gallery and make a list of their top 10 or 20 pieces. The drama comes in when the pieces start coming off the walls.

"Last year I had a really bad number," said O'Reilly, who has donated one of her own works this year. "I thought I wasn't going to get anything good."

But as is many times the case with events such as these, O'Reilly was surprised to see the order in which the pieces were snapped up.



This piece by Kiki Smith will be sold as part of the Kentler's silent auction.



This work by Teri Slotkin will be up for grabs at the Kentler International Drawing Space benefit on May 20th. Below, a collage by Brooklyn artist JoAnne McFarland.

Images courtesy of the Kentler International Drawing Space

"It's all in the eye of the beholder," she said. "There's no accounting for taste... I got a beautiful drawing."

The interesting thing about art raffles is that "it makes you look closely at all the pieces." When you've already paid and you know you're going home with something, curious feelings of adoption come into play.

The gallery, which is open to the public Thursdays through Sundays from 12-5 p.m., has already installed the 120 works on paper. For those who plan to attend, they can get a sneak preview and start making those lists. In addition to the raffle numbers, the Kentler will also hold a silent auction for several works by very well known artists including Lois Dodd, Alex Katz, Andrew Lord and Morgan O'Hara. Perhaps the most prized work, however, is a print by Pat Steir which was commissioned by the Louvre Museum in 1992. Steir was the first woman and the first American to receive a commission by the Louvre, and the print Kentler is auctioning is one out of nine in the edition.

Brooklyn artists who have donated to the main show include JoAnn McFarland, Jim Osman, Christine Herbert, Diana Horowitz, David Kronenberg, Margaret Neill, Hovey Brock, Rachel Youens, Beth Casper, Jeff Epstein, Don Muchow, Dragan Ilic, Sally Yap, Robin Feld, Michael Heffernan and Elise Kaufman.

For more information on the Kentler International Drawing Space, 353 Van Brunt Street, please visit www.kentlergallery.org, email info@kentlergallery.org or call 718-875-2098. There are a limited number of tickets left for the May 20th benefit.

