



Royal/T

8910 Washington Blvd.
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royal-t.org
Cafe: 10am-5pm daily
Space: 10am-6pm daily

Art Makes a Cafe Magical

It wasn't magical to begin with. It was an old office building in Culver City—situated between the neighborhood's art galleries and downtown restaurant row. It happened gradually. Magic was brought in by curators, artists, pop up chefs, and designers, ranging from Hello Kitty, Poketo, Barbie, Momiji, Emily the Strange, and Disney's TRON, to celebrity chefs Ludovic Lefebvre and Kenny Yamada, and designers, such as Lisa Perry and Tarina Tarantino. Now, the space is magical.

The architect that designed Royal/T—Why Architect—nor the New York-based consultants, Goto Design, had never designed or worked on creating a mixed-use restaurant space before. But, their consummate talent teamed with Susan's incredible vision, inspiration, and foresight led to the creation of Los Angeles' first-ever stunning 10,000-square-foot Japanese "cosplay" (costume play) maid cafe, art exhibition space, and retail concept store.

As a respected art collector, one of Susan Hancock's lifelong passions is to share her love of art. Throughout her life, she has used art to make a difference in people's lives, often giving her five nieces prized pieces of artwork rather than toys, not only as an investment for their future, but also as a way to develop their

sensibility and appreciation for the arts. In that process, she also developed a keen eye and sensibility for Japanese contemporary art and more than ½ her own personal collection reflects this style of art.

Through the creation of Royal/T, she has taken her love for sharing art one step further, bringing an eclectic mix of dining, retail, and contemporary art to life within Los Angeles's first maid cafe. The venue serves as a forum to share the gift of Japanese art and culture with the local community in an accessible space that is affordable, inviting, and kid-friendly, reaching out to those who might be intimidated by the idea of visiting a museum.

She had never owned a cafe or a restaurant before nor had she ever worked in one. People warned her that it was not a sound investment but she wasn't doing this to make money. Susan always believes: Do What You Love and the Rest Will Follow. She also believes in the Abundance Theory. She used to have museum groups to her apartment in the Time Warner Building in NYC to convey how contemporary art is so healing to one's soul. "Today's artists know how to put their feelings and energy into a piece of art that we can be recharged by every time we walk by," says Hancock.

As each show came and went with amazing art, put up by amazing curators, the magic dust continued to flow. The current exhibition at Royal/T is *The Warholian* curated by Eric Shiner from The Andy Warhol Museum.



Margaret Hiden

Whitespace

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Wed-Sat: 11am-5pm or by appointment

Whitespace is the most alternative of Atlanta's commercial galleries for showcasing interesting artists and letting them experiment."

-- Catherine Fox, art critic, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Value-added exhibitions, 2007

Whitespace is a contemporary commercial art gallery located in a converted 1893 carriage house in the historic neighborhood of Inman Park in Atlanta, Georgia. Named Critic's Pick for Best Gallery 2010 by Creative Loafing Atlanta, whitespace provides an opportunity for both emerging and mid-career artists to showcase their works. Owner/Director Susan Bridges founded the gallery in 2006, in order to encourage open expression and to promote original, unconventional projects. She currently represents an eclectic mix of original contemporary art, sculpture and photography by local, national and international artists.

Prior to the renovation and opening of whitespace, Bridges organized and curated renegade art shows on the Westside and at various underground venues throughout Atlanta, including a semi-trailer parked at a strategic intersection in Inman Park. Susan is a past Art Papers board member and has played an important part in implementing the uber successful annual Art Papers Art Auction. In addition to directing whitespace, Bridges is currently

focusing her attention on I-45 Collective, a group of Inman Park, Old 4th Ward and Little 5 Points galleries and the newly created Flux Projects, a non-profit benefiting public art projects. Susan is a current board member of BURNAWAY, an online magazine dedicated to the visual arts and Flux Projects.

Recent exhibitions at whitespace included *Turn Your Back to the Forest, Your Front to Me* by Wendy Given, which presented several large-scale photographs and sculptures centered on the theme of the supernatural. Interested in retelling ancient myths and superstitions through her point of view and with a touch of humor, the pieces capture the pristine magic of the Pacific Northwest landscape. As evidence of the diversity of whitespace's shows, *Attack/Decay/Sustain/Release* was another recent show that infused both live and video performance with mixed media drawings by Craig Dongoski. Referencing synthetic musical terms for the title, Dongoski proceeded to create drawings over drawings on various materials. The resulting works came to represent his interpretation of musical scores. Dongoski also created the audio tracks for the videos documenting the drawing process that transformed sounds, like the scratch of a pen across paper, into a soundtrack.



David B. Smith

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Tues-Sat: 12-6pm or by
appointment

At the David B. Smith Gallery, the balance between nature, contemporary art, and creative passion progressively converge into one." So says a reviewer of this Colorado Gallery. It is, in fact, Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. The exhibits are intelligent, culturally relevant, and feature work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Each artist brings to the Gallery a unique and personal perspective, enhanced by excellent technique, creativity and passion. Each presents their vision and message in an aesthetic, which reinforces their point of view. Through painting and sculpture, drawing and collage, through the use of dioramas and photography, the artists challenge their viewers to understand and appreciate, as well as enjoy and celebrate their creativity and use of line, color and image. With the founding of the Gallery in 2007, David B. Smith achieved his goal of bringing together talented artists and committed collectors. He created a venue to showcase works by a diversity of artists that would be both warm and engaging and intellectually interesting. The key is communication – between the viewer and the artist; between the understanding of one viewer and the thought process of the next – the exchange of ideas that makes the aesthetic experience so

meaningful.

Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David Smith has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. He has established relationships with curators of museum and private collections, and provided his artists with opportunities to broaden their audiences. "The artists I work with," says David Smith, "have the talent and ability to impact the contemporary art world, and I'd like to help them get there."

In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith maintains an active publishing division, Limited Addiction, which produces limited edition artist prints and monographs. This allows collectors and interested individuals to acquire quality pieces at a variety of price points, and it encourages new, young collectors to begin investing in high quality art. The Gallery has also been active in promoting organizations and efforts to protect the environment. Whether it's sponsoring fundraisers in the Gallery, or purchasing wind energy or promoting exhibitions with an ecological theme, the Gallery has been active in assuring that the beauty of nature is preserved – an appropriate focus for a Gallery whose backyard is the Rocky Mountains.

The David B. Smith Gallery is a Gallery with a heart. It's a Gallery with high aesthetic standards, a national and international group of talented artists, and a wide group of collectors and art lovers who appreciate the passion, quality and excitement of the works that are presented. Visit the Gallery online or in person. Indulge yourself and experience art that will enhance and expand your perspectives and ideas.



powerHouse Arena

37 Main St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 666-3049
powerhousearena.com
Mon-Fri: 10am-7pm
Sat-Sun: 11am-7pm

In fall 2006, world-renowned and critically acclaimed publisher powerHouse Books launched the powerHouse Arena, a laboratory for creative thought and premier venue for exhibitions, installations, presentations, displays, viewings, performances and readings. Located at 37 Main Street in DUMBO, Brooklyn, the powerHouse Arena is an exhibition space, boutique bookstore and event space. With its amphitheatre-style seating, the powerHouse Arena's 5,200 square-foot ground floor sits under soaring 24-foot ceilings, surrounded on two sides by 175 linear-feet of glass frontage designed by famed architect David Howell.

Since its inception, the powerHouse Arena has hosted a series of landmark artistic exhibitions and literary events, including: readings and signings for touring authors such as Salman Rushdie, Paul Auster, Colum McCann and Spike Lee; juried photo invitations for the New York Photo Festival; the St. Ann's Warehouse after party for the world premiere performance of Lou Reed's Berlin; The New Yorker's Speakeasy; the product launch for Absolut's Brooklyn Vodka; and many more.

Although the Arena by no means caters exclusively to powerHouse Books, the two entities are indelibly connected. Among many distinguished exhibitions by powerHouse photographers, the Arena has hosted John Bartel-

stone's *The Brooklyn Navy Yard*; Ron Galella's *Man in the Mirror*; *But That's Another Story*, a photographic retrospective of Milton H. Greene; and, *Hamburger Eyes: Inside Burgerworld*.

Every May, the powerHouse Arena serves as festival ticketing office and bookstore for the internationally curated *New York Photo Festival*, co-founded in 2008 by powerHouse's own Daniel Power. The Arena is also host to the annual powerHouse Portfolio Review, which entered its seventh year in February 2011. A platform for all levels of aspiring and professional photographers, the Review is an opportunity for photographers to present their body of work to be reviewed and critiqued by leading experts in the fields of photography, art, media, and advertising.

Finally, in addition to its success as a unique event and exhibition space, the powerHouse Arena is also one of Brooklyn's most eclectic book boutiques, carrying a curated selection of art and photography books, and NYC's only pop-up store of Japanese camera-maker and publisher Powershovel.