

October 20, 2007 / GO Brooklyn / Art

Go Gowanus

By Adam Rathe

The Brooklyn Paper

The Gowanus Canal is home to a whole lot more than just its famous green sludge. Next weekend, over 140 visual artists who work in the area surrounding the canal will be showcasing their ceramics, paintings, sculptures, clothing, jewelry and more in the 11th annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour (AGAST).

The up-and-coming nabe has plenty to crow about. There are more artists participating than ever before and, according to AGAST President David Lantow, their work is some of the tour's best ever.

“More and more artists are moving to this area. They're moving from [neighborhoods such as] DUMBO at this point,” said Lantow. “One thing the tour does is give a community feel; you're not just an individual working alone in a studio.

And this is a more mature group of artists, meaning that the work is a few notches up from many tours.”

Artists — including Tamara Thomsen, whose “A Ruched Life” (pictured), is made of pillows, and Lantow himself — will open their studios to an expected crowd of 3,000 visitors.

In hopes of drawing more, AGAST will offer prizes like dinners at local restaurants and art to visitors who get “passports” stamped at four of seven spots throughout the tour.

“The 11th annual Gowanus Artists Studio Tour” will take place from 1 to 6 pm on Oct. 20 and 21. Pick up a map at Sheep Station (149 Fourth Ave. at Douglass Street in Gowanus). For studio locations and information, visit www.agastbrooklyn.com.

