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ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Take Me to the River | New Orleans

Community Outreach Project and Artist Collaboration: May 19 – 28, 2015

Exhibition at Octavia Art Gallery: May 30 – June 13, 2015

Opening reception: Saturday, May 30, 5 – 7 pm

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER (TMTTR), an international artists' collective nonprofit organization, founded in 2001, is collaborating on a unique project with Octavia Art Gallery, KID smART, and four prominent New Orleans artists. The project includes an outreach program with young students, an art collaboration between TMTTR artists and NOLA artists, and an exhibition at Octavia Art Gallery. The exhibition opening will be on Saturday, May 30 from 5 to 7 pm.

Two weeks before the exhibition opening, ten TMTTR artists (from Chile, France, Germany, Jamaica, Pakistan, and the United States) will arrive in New Orleans to stage the outreach project and work on a collaborative piece of art with NOLA artists Jenna Bonistalli, Jeffrey Pitt, Allison Stewart and Michel Varisco. Since January, the NOLA artists and TMTTR artists have been engaged in internet dialogue about the details of creating the collaborative work when TMTTR artists arrive. Under the aegis of KID smART, TMTTR has been in discussion with Jenna Bonistalli, teacher as well as artist, about the details of the art workshop they will conduct together at Akili Academy with a class of 20 at-risk first grade students she teaches there.

In keeping with the custom of all TMTTR projects, all of the artwork in the exhibition at Octavia Gallery will reference water. In addition to the collaborative work the TMTTR and NOLA artists create together, each participating artist will also exhibit an individual piece of art of her or his own. The exhibition as a whole will be a true multimedia experience including paintings, photographs, prints, mixed media work, video and assemblage. The artwork created by the young students in the outreach program will also be on display at Octavia Gallery.

Participating TMTTR artists include: Mary-Ann Beall, France; Joan Belmar, Chile; John Brown, USA; David Carlson, U.S.A; Eglon Daley, Jamaica; Richard L. Dana, USA; Mansoor Hassan, Pakistan; Judy Jashinsky, USA; Ruza Spak, Germany, and; Betsy Stewart, USA.

Websites:

<http://www.tmttr.org/>

<http://www.octaviaartgallery.com/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org/>

<http://akiliacademy.org/>

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About TMTTR

The mission of Take Me To The River (TMTTR) is to promote greater understand and cooperation among different peoples and nations through multicultural projects. TMTTR's artists have chosen water as the recurrent motif of the project's artwork and a reflection of its mission. Throughout human history water, whether ocean, sea, lake or river has been an essential means of social, cultural and commercial interchange between different religions, politics, philosophies and peoples.

There are two core components of every TMTTR project. One is a multinational, multidisciplinary exhibition with all artwork making visual reference to water. As TMTTR moves around the world to different venues, guest artists from the host country are invited to participate with project members. This is a critical element of TMTTR and is at the heart of TMTTR's mission to promote a common global community. TMTTR have often invited guest artists who share TMTTR's philosophy and work ethic to become TMTTR members. The second core component of all TMTTR projects is a community outreach program, done in partnership with project's host. Outreach programs generally take the form of a workshop during which art, with water as the common motif, is created; this artwork is then included in the TMTTR exhibition. Outreach project participants have included students from 4th grade to university, as well as senior citizens, immigrants, homeless people and people with mental disabilities.

TMTTR's 16 permanent members are from Afghanistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, France, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, United States and Zimbabwe. TMTTR has staged projects in: Cairo, Egypt; Washington, DC; Pretoria, South Africa; Wichita Falls, Texas; Istanbul, Turkey; College Park, Maryland; Aix-En-Provence, France; and Montevideo, Uruguay.

About Octavia Art Gallery

Octavia Art Gallery was established in 2008 with the mission of showcasing the work of international emerging and established contemporary artists along with modern masters, emphasizing the preservation and conservation of unique and authentic artistic cultures worldwide.

Relocating to Julia Street in 2013, Octavia Art Gallery continues its commitment to bring regional, national and international contemporary artists to New Orleans. The gallery opened a satellite location in Houston, Texas in 2014. The Houston location exhibits a curated selection of the gallery's represented artists along with emerging and mid-career Texas based artists. In conjunction with the gallery's expansion into Texas, Octavia Art Gallery continues to assist in the cultivation, growth and enhancement of both new and established corporate and private art collections through art advising and collection management.

About KID smART

KID smART is a New Orleans based arts education nonprofit. KID smART works to engage children in dynamic, creative and rigorous learning through the arts. Its focus is reform of instructional practice through arts integration – linking instruction in the arts with instruction in the academic curriculum – to support the success of under-resourced students, their teachers and their schools.

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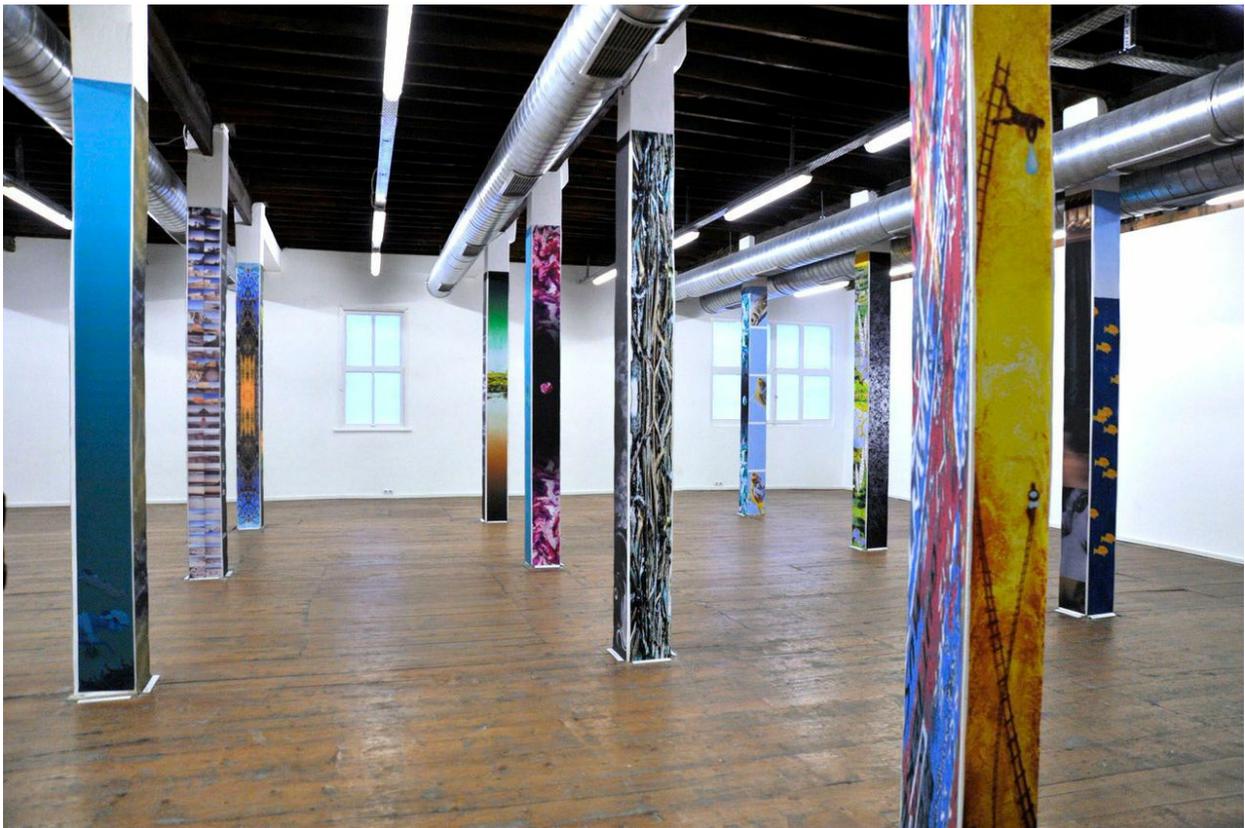
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TMTR Outreach Project – Mamelodi Township, S. Africa



TMTR Outreach Project – Wichita Falls, Texas



TMTR Installation view – Tutun Deposu Gallery, Istanbul