



James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History

ART DEPARTMENT GALLERY

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: *LOOKING INTO THE PIONEER BUILDING: Wayne State University Alumni Exhibition*
Dates: July 8 through August 12, 2011
Opening Reception: Friday, July 8, 5-8PM
Summer Hours: Tuesdays through Fridays 12PM – 5PM
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The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History’s
Art Department Gallery is pleased to present

LOOKING INTO THE PIONEER BUILDING
Wayne State University Alumni Exhibition

This exhibition features Wayne State University Alumni who have studios in the Pioneer Building.

The following artists are included: Suzanne Andersen, Jeanne Bieri, Matthew Breneau, Joyce Brienza, Barbara Dorchen, Joan Farago, Anne Fracassa, Marcia Freedman, Joe Gohl, Carole Kabrin, Denise Kozlo, Bobby Litwin, Eric Mesko, Sherry Moore, Teresa Petersen, Josephine Primeau, Shelley Richmond, Jerrie Sasson, Claudia Shepard, Alan Watson and Christine Welch.

The Pioneer Building History

In 1905, two brothers named Trippensee started a corporation to make orreries, mechanical models of the Earth, Moon, and Sun. In 1908, they erected their own building and shifted manufacturing to enclosed bodies for Buick and Ford. Sometime in the early 1920s, they sold the building to Barney Everitt and it became home for Rickenbacker Motorcar Co. Through 1960, the building served various tenants who made everything from ice scrapers to hacksaws.

Gerhard Woberman bought the building in 1960, using it for his Pioneer Office Products business. In 1985, due to age and illness, he cut back and rented unused space to artists. In 1994, artist Anne Fracassa and her six offspring renovated the building and then bought it forming Fracassa Ventures Inc. They have been renting out studio spaces in The Pioneer Building since.

The Pioneer Building is located at 2679 East Grand Boulevard in Detroit, one mile east of Woodward Avenue and just east of Russell Street.

All events are free and open to the general public. The Art Department Gallery is located in the Art Building on the campus of Wayne State University, near the intersection of Cass Avenue and Kirby Street. Metered street parking is available and is free after 6:00PM.

The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History is a division of Wayne State's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, educating the next generation of visual artists, designers and art historians. Wayne State University, located in the heart of Detroit's midtown cultural center, is a premier urban research university offering more than 350 academic programs through 13 schools and colleges to more than 31,000 students.

For more information, contact Tom Pyrzewski at tpyrzewski@wayne.edu or 313-577-0770.

