

T.A.G. You're It: This Generation of T.A.G. (Teen Art Gallery) Opens Their Last Show This June At Salon 94's Freemans



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T.A.G. is currently preparing for a two-week exhibition that opens on June 12th at Salon 94's Freeman Alley gallery located at 1 Freeman Alley. T.A.G. (Teen Art Gallery) is a teen-based artist collective dedicated to consolidating and exposing young artists' works in galleries across the world. The show will feature artwork by twenty teens from across America, aged 12-19, selected from over 7,500 contributors. Founded in 2010 by Audrey Banks, a current NYC high school senior, T.A.G. is quickly expanding and flourishing internationally with branches opening in Germany and Florence.

The show itself, "T.A.G., You're It: The End Of A Chapter", is a free event and will – as always – be a celebration of

youthful creativity, exhibiting a collection of paintings, photographs, sculpture, film, music, installation, writing, and performance art. It is this generation of T.A.G.'s last show as most of the originators move on to college. This show embodies the best of T.A.G., work that best represents the type of talent and spirit that this generation of T.A.G. strives to support, as the next generation of T.A.G. takes over.



Sneak Peeks at the June Show

Despite having been founded less than two years ago, T.A.G. has quickly gained momentum as a serious organization with a history of successful shows in the Open Center and the Rogue Space in Chelsea, as well as notable press coverage including a spread in the New York Sunday Times, a critics' pick in New York Magazine, articles in Frieze, GALO, ArtNet, and mentions in Paper Magazine and the Huffington Post. Project Runway also recruited T.A.G. and some of its artists in August 2011, for an episode in Season 9.

For most young adults, the art world - full of white walls, art dealers and established artists - is intimidating. It isn't easy for youths to approach a career in art even if they are wholly competent and have both the maturity and talent needed for one. The young artist's struggle comes with a lack of practical knowledge that coincides with the limiting environment assigned to them due to their age. T.A.G.'s purpose is to eliminate age-based discriminations and enable teenaged artists to contribute to the art world. It recognizes the sophistication often found in their technical and conceptual practices that has often gone unnoticed. T.A.G. facilitates the powerful voice of raw, honest, unrestricted, unrefined, untrained young talents that add a fresh angle to the contemporary arts. .Audrey Banks, in an article for MetroFocus, noted that, "There are a few teenaged artists I know who have a style, a vision and a voice behind their work now, in their youth. With

years ahead of us, that voice may change, lose its novelty and excitement, or be obliterated altogether. We want to preserve that voice while we still can."

For the artists who exhibit there, T.A.G.'s efforts pay off. Sierra Pittman, one of the featured artists in the 2011 show, stated, "Seeing my photograph framed on the wall was such a rewarding moment. The moment wasn't rewarding just for me but for everyone who was exhibiting. Anyone who walks into a T.A.G. gallery is supporting the recognition and opportunities that teen artists should be offered."

In a video for the New York Times, Lola Shepherd, the art gallery coordinator of Open Center, stated, "If this is an example of what teenagers are like today, we are in really good shape."

For More Information on T.A.G. contact Audrey Banks at audrey@teenartgallery.org
Or visit their website: www.teenartgallery.org



The T.A.G. Team. From left to right: Sam Williams, Alyssa Asaro, Sophie Donlon, Daniel Ramos, Paris Starn, Sophia Orlow, Noa Bricklin, Sierra Pittman, Audrey Banks, Charlotte Lee. Photo taken by Rosa Polin.

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