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Newark NJ 07102

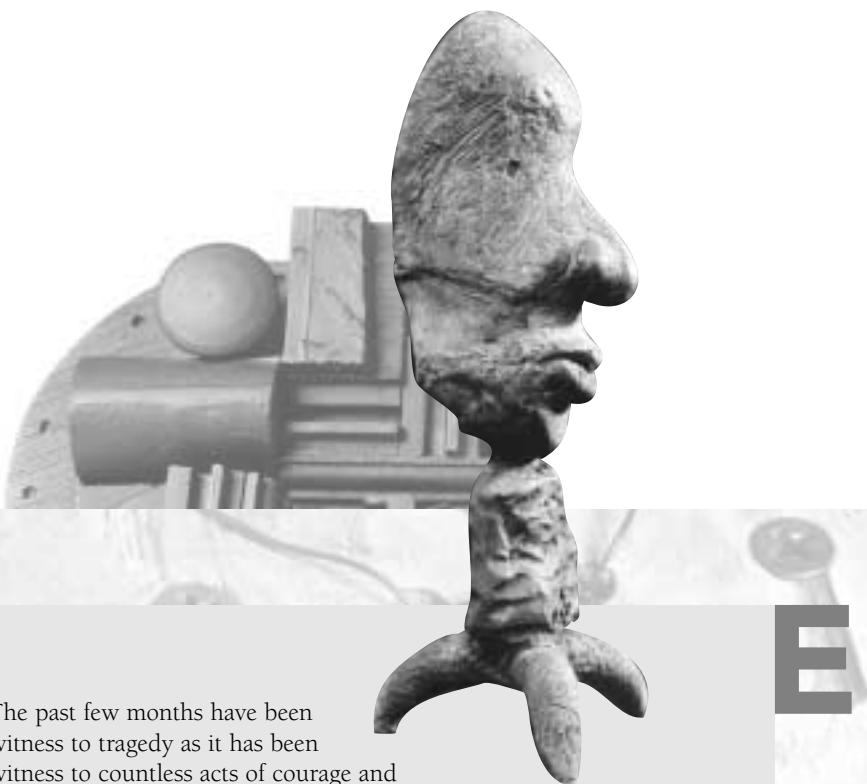
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ALJIRA

A Center for Contemporary Art

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DREAMtime



The past few months have been witness to tragedy as it has been witness to countless acts of courage and compassion. In the wake of our national crisis, Aljira has revisited its mission and has looked at ways it can contribute to healing and reconciliation through contemporary art and culture. Now more than ever, Aljira is resolved to bridge the gap among diverse communities throughout Newark and new Jersey. What follows is a prayer I learned as a young man growing up in Guyana that I want to share with you.

Victor L. Davson
Executive Director

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free,
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arm towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into
the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening
thought and action—Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake.

Gitanjali

—Rabindranath Tagore

EMERGE 2002

Coming on the scene

Participating artists credit the *Emerge* experience as a dynamic and timely means to expand and advance their practice out of the studio, beyond the act of creation. The new season marks Aljira's third year of presenting this innovative career development program, which features a series of seminars, a curated exhibition and an illustrated catalog.

Like its predecessors, *Emerge 2002* will prepare artists for the 21st century by offering practical advice from professionals, dispensing with the romantic myth of the starving artist or any psychological stereotype of the artist as a fragile creative soul. *Emerge* was born out of the need to fill a gap in the education of artists; few academic or community programs teach the "business of art," an essential element of modern-day success.

To date, 36 individuals (18 each year) from the greater New York and New Jersey metropolitan area have been selected for the program, which is offered at no cost to them. *Emerge* is open to all artists who have at least five years of professional

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Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art

TAKING IT ON THE MOVE

Aljira is moving forward with a \$4 million capital campaign, **Taking It To The Street: The Campaign To Educate Audiences Through Contemporary Art.** A historic project for facility expansion, development and the implementation of new programs, the centerpiece is the creation of impressive new galleries and office space in the heart of downtown Newark planned to open in 2002.

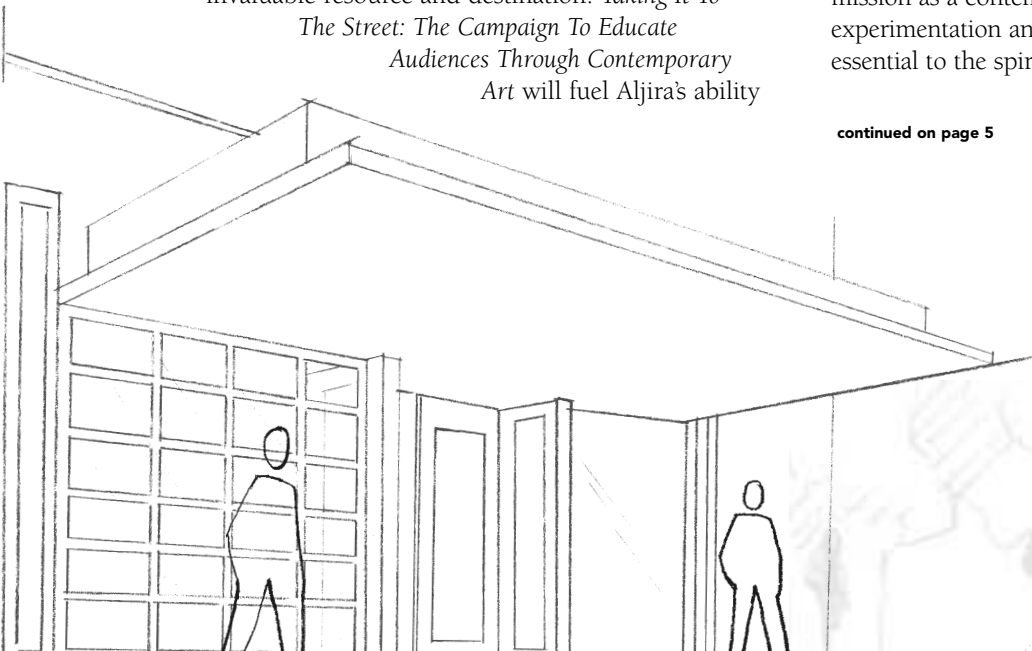
Since it came on the scene in 1983, Aljira has maintained its mission to transform and enrich life through the arts in the diverse communities it serves. Aljira, a word from the Australian Aborigines, signifies a utopian dreamtime in which the creative mind prevails. It encompasses concepts of timelessness and open possibilities—ideas inherent in the creative process and to which the organization has remained true. The only art space of its kind in New Jersey, Aljira is a not-for-profit visual art center that promotes the work of emerging and underrepresented artists. For nearly two decades, it has been a catalyst for discourse and scholarship on new art and ideas, promoting cross-cultural dialog and functioning as an invaluable resource and destination. *Taking It To The Street: The Campaign To Educate Audiences Through Contemporary Art* will fuel Aljira's ability

to bridge cultural and ethnic divides and strengthen public appreciation and enthusiasm for a broader spectrum of cultural presentations.

Since its founding, an estimated 500,000 people have attended Aljira's programs or visited its small, and somewhat inconveniently located, fourth-floor galleries on Washington Place. The new street-level facility, with over 7,000 square feet, is situated on Broad Street, one of Newark's main thoroughfares, across from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. In its new location, Aljira will provide public access to programming of the highest caliber, hosting exhibits that travel nationally and serving an estimated 50,000 annual visitors. Increased visibility and expanded accessibility will foster its capacity to introduce art to students, seniors and culturally underserved groups in the community at large. Aljira's investment in downtown Newark also adds measurable value to the city and the region, merging the arts, entertainment, design and quality of urban life—all essential to Newark's revitalization.

Designed by the international firm Kiss + Cathcart Architects, Aljira's new facility features flexible galleries for education, contemporary art, performance, as well as administration, graphic design and retail space. Idea-centered gallery space is the underlying concept for Aljira's development of a public education department, an expanded approach to its overall vision and mission as a contemporary art center. This concept encourages experimentation and is used as a catalyst for new ideas that are essential to the spiritual and aesthetic growth of individuals.

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Above and left:
591 Broad Street, facade (detail).
Drawing: Kiss + Cathcart Architects

NEW FACES

BOARD MEMBERS and STAFF proudly announce several important additions and changes to Aljira's administration.

William Jones

William Jones, professor emeritus, Rutgers University, and an Aljira Trustee since 1997, was elected chairman of the Board by unanimous vote. Prior to his retirement in December 1999 following 30 years of teaching on the University's Newark campus, Jones was a senior member of the Academic Foundations Department. There he served periodically as department chair, interim director of the Education Opportunity Fund Program, and director of the Saturday Academy, an SAT preparatory program for 11th grade students in the Newark high schools. His scholarly interests and research have focused on the development of student-centered, enabling pedagogies and the impact of languages, dialects and culture on classroom performance and teacher expectations.

Jones, a resident of Plainfield, is a frequent traveler to Africa and a collector of contemporary African Diaspora fine art. While his holdings focus principally on the work of artists from West Africa (Ghana and Nigeria) and East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia), his collection also includes works by Brazilian and African American artists. "Bill's ascent as chair comes at an opportune moment in the organizational life of Aljira. His passion for the arts and background in education ensures support for our program expansion especially it's new education component" comments Aljira Executive Director Victor L. Davson.



Above:
William Jones
Left to right:
Tanya M. Riggs
Rebecca Pratt
Lisa R. Saroop.

Tanya M. Riggs

A newly created Development Department represents a significant step forward as it is

the first time in Aljira's 18-year history that the organization has supported either full- or part-time fundraising and membership staff. Tanya M. Riggs, named associate director of development and marketing, brings considerable experience in the management, funding and marketing strategies of non-profit arts organizations from her position as a performing arts associate at the New York State Council on the Arts. Previously, Riggs served as coordinator of AHA! (Arts and Humanities Adventure!), a statewide educational initiative of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and as project curator and education consultant for the Walsh Library Gallery in South Orange, New Jersey. A graduate of Seton Hall University, Riggs participated in the Museum Professions Program with a focus on arts management.

Rebecca Pratt

New Development and Membership Coordinator Rebecca Pratt recently graduated from Seton Hall University's Masters in Museum Professions Program, completing her graduate certificate in arts administration with a thesis dissecting development practices in



the arts over the past decade. Her professional experiences include art historical research in Australia and France; a position in public relations at the Dahesh Museum, New York;

marketing and public relations work in Seton Hall University's Music Department; and evaluation consulting for the Walsh Library Gallery in South Orange, New Jersey.

A native of New Hampshire, Pratt received her undergraduate degree in art history from the College of the Holy Cross, where her studies focused on historical preservation and revitalization. Pratt's recent relocation to the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area was motivated by her desire to pursue her passion for the arts.

Lisa R. Saroop

Business administrator Lisa Saroop is a recent graduate of York College/CUNY where she majored in Accounting. She was previously employed by the Walt Disney Internet Group as an accounts payable clerk, and at York College as an accounting tutor and accounting intern. During her internship, Saroop helped upgrade crucial systems to make them Y2K compliant.

A resident of South Ozone Park, NY, Saroop is also a member of the Institute Management of Accountants.



(Special thanks to The Hyde and Watson Foundation for a grant to purchase hardware and software and to Nathan Cummings Foundation for major funding to establish Aljira's new Development Department.) ●

WARHOL INITIATIVE

Building Capacity and Momentum

Standing uniquely as New Jersey's leading center for contemporary art, Aljira is well-positioned to benefit from a significant award of \$100,000 from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which last year established a \$3 million, three-year program aiming to bolster small to mid-size visual arts organizations. Selected as one of only eight institutions nationwide to participate in the Warhol Initiative for 2001, trustees and Executive Director Victor L. Davson proudly announced this grant, dedicated to Aljira's initiative for long term stability *Taking It To The Street: The Campaign To Educate Audiences Through Contemporary Art*. The capacity-building Warhol Initiative provides unprecedented support in

being the first national effort directed at small to mid-size arts groups by a private foundation. The primary intention of this invitational program is to strengthen the organizational and financial capacities of these artist-centered spaces. According to a statement issued by the Warhol Foundation, "These organizations play a pivotal role in the arts infrastructure—artists across the country cite them as vital in their support of the creative process and as an important link to audiences."

With its \$4 million capital campaign underway, Aljira's future stability is considerably advanced by the Warhol Initiative's strategy of individually tailored

grants. In addition to the financial award, grantees (to total up to 24 over three years) are offered the resources of technical assistance and other peer support for the duration of the program. Aljira is honored to have met eligibility requirements that include "artist-centered organizations fundamentally dedicated to supporting artists in their growth and development and with a demonstrated ability to generate strong artistic programming;" and "leadership able and eager to adapt to change and to embrace a creative approach to achieving organizational potential." The Warhol grant will go towards Aljira's endowment goal of \$1,000,000. ●

Aljira at the Academy

EXPLORING THE WORLD

A satellite exhibition space primarily serving an audience of children and young adults, Aljira at The Academy both inspires and hosts an ongoing program for high school students called The Young Curators. With a curatorial concept in mind—art reflects the culture and times in which it was made—participants are encouraged to look, think and create. ●



Above:
Students from The Young Curators Program view Aljira at The Academy's *Color and Movement, Take I* exhibition.

Left:
Sharron Miller, Executive Director of Sharron Miller's Academy for The Performing Arts, Montclair

TAKING IT TO THE STREET

I WANT TO HELP ALJIRA ADVANCE WITH PLANS TO MOVE TO 591 BROAD STREET THIS SPRING

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State/Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for: \$ 100 \$ 250 \$ 500 Other.....

If more convinient, your contribution may be made via:

MasterCard Visa American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

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I will submit this to my employer for a matching gift

name of employer _____



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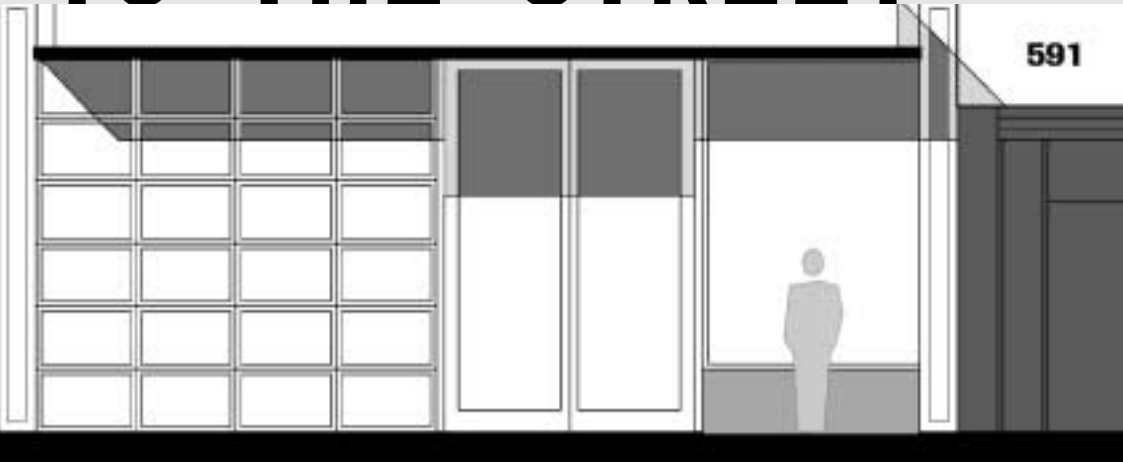
On the move... continued from page 2

Of the \$4 million campaign goal, \$1 million is allocated for construction, \$2 million dedicated to program expansion and development and the remaining \$1 million will be used to establish an endowment fund. The trustees and administration gratefully credit these major contributors to the campaign: The Prudential Foundation, with a gift of \$500,000, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, with a prestigious grant for \$100,000 (see following article). The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the

Arts, and The Chase Manhattan Bank are ensuring Aljira's stability by providing critical multi-year support during this period of transition. Aljira trustees have also committed \$100,000 in pledges toward this goal.

Taking It To The Street: The Campaign To Educate Audiences Through Contemporary Art is a partnership of Aljira's Board of Trustees, educators, friends of the arts and community representatives. For additional information or donor opportunities, please contact us at 973 643-6877 or via email at aljira@al.com.

TO THE STREET



591

Clockwise, from left:
591 Broad Street, facade.
Drawing: Kiss + Cathcart Architects

591 Broad Street, front view from
Military Park. Photo and rendering:
Kiss + Cathcart Architects.

591 Broad Street, elevation sketch.



Funding for Aljira has been made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; U.S. Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (administered by the City of Newark); The Chase Manhattan Bank; Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Johnson & Johnson; Prudential Foundation; Nathan Cummings Foundation; membership and individual contributions.

Special thanks to the New Newark Foundation, Victoria Foundation, Edison Properties LLC, Newark Downtown District, Lowenstein Sandler PC, and Clarsen Investment Research.

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Rebecca Pratt
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Lisa R. Saroop
Business Administrator

Bridget Stoyko
Administrative Associate

On the cover, clockwise from left:
Louise Nevelson, *Untitled*, 1972, cast plaster, 5 1/4 x 4 1/2 x 1 in.
Donald Locke, *The Mask of Joe Potaro* (#2 of fifty sculptures from the series *El Dorado Man*), 2000, bronze, fabric and acrylic paint, 10 x 5 x 4 in.
Hannah Fink, *Pink Chair* (detail), 1998, mixed media on wood, 20 x 7x10 in.



Ken Butler, guest speaker, Aljira *Emerge* 2001.

experience and who are able to attend all 12 seminars presented over a four-month period. At the conclusion, an exhibition and illustrated catalog give each participant the opportunity to apply what they learned to a "real world" setting.

Lecture topics range from how to acquire gallery representation and develop public

relations strategies to copyright protection and financial planning. Distinguished speakers for the 2002 program include Papo Colo and Jeanette Ingberman, directors of Exit Art/The First World, presenting the lecture *Getting the Word Out: Alternative Spaces*; Caroline Black, program officer from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, offering *The Pollack-Krasner Grant*; and art historian, critic and curator Dominique Nahas discussing *The Critic and the Art Press*. New York-based artist and critic Calvin Reid is the guest curator for this year's program.

The excitement builds as artists and Aljira staff anticipate the final selection of the *Emerge 2002* participants. Fiercely competitive, artists must submit work samples, written materials and participate in an interview process to be accepted. This year 184 artists applied for *Emerge 2002*. The seminars which began in September continue through December 17. The exhibition with accompanying catalog will take place in the summer of 2002.

The *Emerge* alumni from the 2000 and 2001 programs continue to validate the program's premise. Judith Page, *Emerge* program director, in her foreword to the new catalog comments, "And these artists have expanded their careers decisively. I can attest to this by the publications, and the exhibition and grant announcements that arrive in my mailbox weekly from the *Emerge* participants.... [It] is an investment in the creative process—valuable to the individual—invaluable to the community."

Aljira extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, among them *Emerge* participant, Barbara Rachko, whose husband was a passenger aboard one of the airliners.

Aljira offers special thanks to Edison Properties, LLC for its support of *Emerge 2001*. ●

2001 AUCTION

Bringing down the house



Harmer Johnson conducts the live auction while patrons discuss their bids.



In the audience, from left to right: Trustee Bettye Carson; Brendah Locke; Paula Hunchar; trustee Linda Finney; and co-founder Carl E. Hazlewood.



Guests Dale Caldwell, Dr. Sally Yerkovich and honoree Jerry Gottesman.

As spiritedly conducted on June 7 by Harmer Johnson of television's *Antiques Roadshow*, The Aljira Fine Art Auction 2001, was a resounding success raising over \$60,000 towards Aljira's general operations. Enthusiastic bidding on over 80 exciting contemporary works—paintings, photographs, prints, sculptures and works on paper—by celebrated artists attested not only to

the worth of the pieces offered, but also to the appreciation of the art lovers gathered together that evening.

A great many had taken advantage, one week earlier, of a special preview lecture on *The Art of Collecting Made Simple*. Both novices and experienced buyers learned some valuable tips on collecting—including what to look for before investing and how much to pay. Aljira thanks guest speaker Ellen Sragow, owner of Manhattan's Sragow Gallery, for her enlightening and thoroughly enjoyable presentation, as well as event attendees and contributors for their participation.

For their invaluable contributions in support of Aljira and the arts in Newark, we proudly salute The Aljira Fine Art

Auction 2001 Honorary Chairs Jerry Gottesman, Chairman of the Board, Edison Properties, LLC, and Diane J. Johnson, New Jersey State Director, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Aljira gratefully acknowledges Auction sponsors The Prudential Insurance Company of America; PNC Bank; Verizon; Edison Properties, LLC; St. John & Wayne; Paterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP; Sills Cummis Radin Tischman Epstein & Gross PA; The MCJ Foundation; Amelior Foundation; PSE&G; WBGO/ Jazz 88.3 FM; Clarsen Investments Research and Drinker Biddle and Carpenter, Bennett & Morrissey. ●