

Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning
presents
Jamaica Flux: Workspaces & Windows 2021

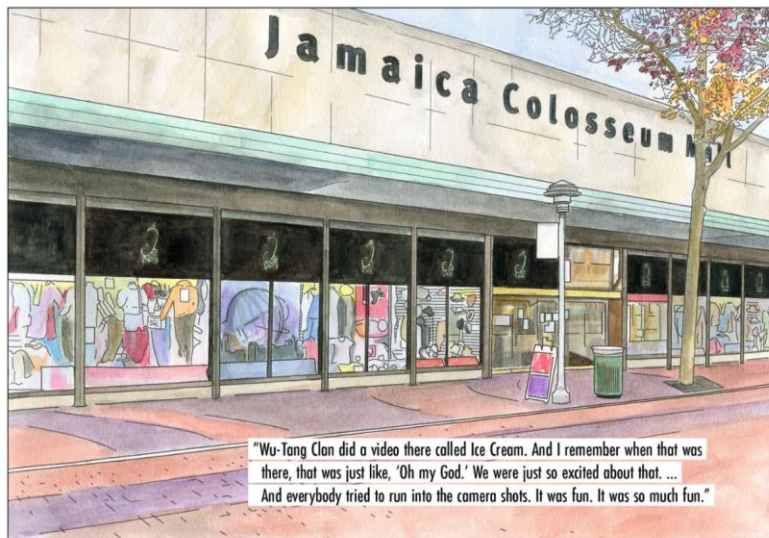


IMAGE: "POSTCARDS FROM JAMAICA (COLOSSEUM MALL)" LINDA GANJIAN, QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT INTERVIEW © 2020 SARANTHA ALETHIA PINNIS, LINDA GANJIAN, CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0

JAMAICA FLUX

WORKSPACES & WINDOWS 2021

6/10-8/7: Research Exhibition @JCAL
7/10-8/21: Site-specific projects on view
along Jamaica Ave
More information at jcal.org/jamaica-flux



June 28, 2021 (New York) -- Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL) is pleased to present ***Jamaica Flux: Workspaces and Windows 2021***, the result of a year-long endeavor by 14 NYC-based artists and artist groups, with works installed in site-specific locations throughout Southeast Queens. This is the fifth iteration of the *Jamaica Flux* series since 2004.

The project is presented in two parts: a group exhibition featuring the artists' research modules, on view at the Miller and Community galleries at JCAL (161-04 Jamaica Avenue) through Saturday, August 7, 2021; and the resulting public artworks along Jamaica Avenue will be on view through Saturday, August 21, 2021.

The participating artists in ***Jamaica Flux*** are **Damali Abrams, Heejung Cho, Indranil Choudhury, Cody + Julian (Cody Ann Herrmann and Julian Louis Phillips), Sherese Francis, Linda Ganjian, Hayoon Jay Lee, Le'Andra LeSeur, Reuben Lorch-Miller, Firoz Mahmud, Nadia Misir, Sari Nordman, Jessica Segall, and Misra Walker.**

Beginning in the fall of 2020, the **Jamaica Flux** artists developed public, socially engaging projects in collaboration with organizations and sites throughout Jamaica, Queens. The exhibition in JCAL's Miller Gallery spotlights the research materials and works gathered and created during this period, whether virtually or in person. These materials provide reflections on the anxieties and tensions of our present moment—creative and collective responses that draw upon the social, political, ecological, digital, interactive, guerilla and sonic.

An invitation-only opening reception will be held Saturday, July 10, 12 noon to 3pm, at JCAL. The event will begin in the galleries, with guests enjoying the research exhibition and a light lunch. There will be remarks by JCAL leadership and the curatorial team, followed by an informal Q&A with those artists in attendance. At 2pm, there will be a guided tour to select public projects along Jamaica Avenue.

For the general public, JCAL's galleries are open by appointment on Saturdays from 12 noon to 3pm. Appointments may be made via [Eventbrite](#). Certain artworks are also located at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center (153-01 Jamaica Ave) and can be viewed by appointment Monday to Friday, 10am to 5:30pm. At this time, the following **Jamaica Flux** artists will be on site as follows:

July 17: Hayoon Jay Lee, Cody + Julian

July 31: Linda Ganjian

In addition to [Eventbrite](#), appointments may be made by emailing JCAL Visual Arts Program Associate Naomi Kuo at nkuo@jcal.org or calling 718-658-7400 x114. Projects at King Manor Museum and the Colosseum Mall are viewable subject to their respective public hours. To learn more about **Jamaica Flux** and upcoming public programs, visit jcal.org/jamaica-flux.

About the Projects

Damali Abrams (*A Window into Oral Histories of Jamaica Artists*) focused on culture-makers in Jamaica to create a large-scale collage based on recorded interviews with local artists and business owners. The collage will be exhibited inside the Colosseum Mall near the south entrance on 165th St.

Heejung Cho (*Individuality and Locality*) collaborated with the Queens Memory Project to interview residents and document the ways that the neighborhood has changed through a series of photo etching prints with Chine-collé and oil pastel drawings. She has adapted these images into stickers that dot the landscape in unexpected places and change over time.

Indranil Choudhury (*District 24*) created a two-channel video installation through the lens of a local political campaign. The film—following Moumita Ahmed, a candidate for City Council from District 24—further observes the microculture of Hillside Avenue. His work is installed at the lower-level lobby of JPAC. Visitors are encouraged to view the work Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5pm, by appointment.

Artist duo **Cody + Julian's** project (*the Peoples Communication Commission, PCC*), creates media and installations that repurpose the tactics of advertising campaigns to empower the general public to speak to those in power. Their civic activities further question the ways in which protest slogans, guerilla advertising, and their combined aesthetics have been co-opted. They invite participation

through their gallery installation at JCAL and will have an installation of signs at Rufus King Park on the corner of Jamaica Ave and 153rd St. Cody + Julian is a collaboration between artists Cody Ann Herrmann and Julian Louis Phillips.

Sherese Francis (*Art/I/Fact*) created a series of text, photography and other visual art collages formed from archival research and workshops centered on under-explored, neglected histories and spaces of Southeast Queens. Her work will take the form of banners installed on the JPAC fence on 153rd St.

Linda Ganjian (*Postcards From Jamaica*), created a series of postcards which combine quotes and personal histories from community interviews with drawings of significant neighborhood sites that are vulnerable to redevelopment in an era of massive rezoning and change. The postcards are free and publicly available inside the King Manor Museum and JCAL.

Hayoon Jay Lee (*Let's Share in the Moment: A Dialogue Around Eating*) collaborated with King Manor Museum, South Queens Women's March (SQWM) team, and poet-educator Cheryl Moskowitz in a project composed of five parts. The work includes a rice lab and capsule installation, a poetry installation, and a table dialogue and video documentation that took place inside King Manor's kitchen and dining area. The artworks and documentation are at both King Manor Museum and JCAL.

Through street interviews and community spoken-word/stream-of-consciousness writing workshops, **Le'Andra LeSeur** (*There is Only Language Between Us*) composed a sonic installation for the outdoors that amplifies a collective conversation around need and care. Her work can be heard at dawn and dusk outside the JCAL entrance.

Firoz Mahmud (*Migrational Influx*) collaborated with immigrant community members to create a series of multimedia works celebrating Bengali legacies, traditions and subcultures. His project was unrealized at its original scale at the Jamaica LIRR station, but he will bring his work to the site in a forthcoming guerilla performance.

Reuben Lorch-Miller (*Southeast Queens Flags*) took the role of artist-as-facilitator to create and select a series of full-scale neighborhood flag designs for Jamaica through an online survey that crowdsourced input from Southeast Queens residents. The flags are installed on the street-level windows of JCAL.

Nadia Misir (*Mapping Grief and Gentrification*) reflected on relationships between diaspora, gentrification and grief through a series of poetry workshops to create a 'zine that radically retells the history of Jamaica as a neighborhood.

Sari Nordman's *Tower* is an interdisciplinary installation work utilizing sculpture, video projection, archiving and community participation. The project reflects on climate change and the biblical story *The Tower of Babel*—a story of greed and value of cultural differences. The work is installed at Rufus King Park by the King Manor Museum and will be accompanied by video projection events on the sculpture.

Jessica Segall (*Nest*) partnered with the Littoral Society in Jamaica Bay and Don Riepe (a Jamaica Bay Guardian) to build a new sculptural platform for the osprey birds of the bay, as well as a public video feed to build on dialogue regarding the interrelationships between local housing, urban and ecological health. The video is on view at the JCAL lobby.

Misra Walker (*The People's Ludi*) will use the Resorts World shuttle station on Sutphin Blvd under the LIRR station to host a series of public workshops and tournaments around the game Ludo, also in collaboration with local Caribbean restaurants. Through this multi-layered project, the artist investigates the social and material conditions of Jamaica through the language of local game culture, that is further imbued with political symbolism.

About Jamaica Flux

First conceived in 2002 to address the separation of art from everyday life, Jamaica Flux has evolved with the community to reflect the pressing issues of the times and to advocate for expanded collaboration through the arts. In times of global pandemic, artists have had to ask the question: how do we engage in times of closed doors and borders? Turning to community through hybrid organizing and relationship-building, these projects keep with the spirit of “flux” at the more localized, specific temporalities of everyday life. Each makes space for work that both shapes and is transformed by the limitations and demands of the times. Since its first iteration, **Jamaica Flux** has brought together artists, curators, scholars, local residents, community leaders, politicians and stakeholders to build on the cultural legacy of Southeast Queens. With the greater intent to expand equity and cultural inclusion, **Jamaica Flux** strives to commission and present publicly accessible art projects while also documenting the developments and contradictions that arise in the process.

Acknowledgements

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About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. Operating hours: Monday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit JCAL.org.

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