

For Immediate Release:

No Plan B. Art Gallery Returns Bigger and Better.

SAN DIEGO, California - January 24, 2019 - Last summer, it looked like the writing was on the wall for The Studio Door. Just another of San Diego's arts and cultural spaces forced to close due to the escalating rents of San Diego. Now the gallery with artists studios is about to reopen in Hillcrest with the determination to step up its game.

"It was heartbreaking to have to close down with the prospect of an uncertain future," said The Studio Door owner Patric Stillman. "In just four years, the cost of commercial property skyrocketed. I was beside myself wondering how any small business can survive this market. But when it came down to it, I didn't have a plan B nor did I want one. I kept soldiering on in hopes that I would find the right location and a arts sympathetic landlord."

Stillman struggled through a half dozen negotiations with property owners that all ended up not working out. As his own faith wavered, his partner Danné Sadler convinced him to reach out to the spaces that have been empty for a while, which seemed unaffordable and put in an offer. Stillman started several new negotiations and on November 1, he signed a long term contract to take over the American Apparel space in Hillcrest that was closed for several years. Then the hard work of renovating the space began.

"We've be working round the clock for months transforming the space," said studio artist Chris Smith. "It was incredible to see how much the space changed from week to week. I can't wait for the public to come in and experience the new Studio Door." Smith worked closely alongside of Stillman and Sadler to realize the planned renovations.

The Hillcrest location expanded Stillman's vision. At 4,300 square feet, the building itself is significantly larger than the previous space, which allows The Studio Door to showcase more contemporary artists in the gallery and double the amount of working artist studios. Included are plans for a curated art-inspired museum store where patrons can pick up some unique gifts as well as a collaboration with Clay Artists of San Diego, who will be showcasing their member's best works.

"Last year, provide me some time to think about what worked and what needed fine tuning so I plan to put a new spin on favorite programs and collaborations to engage in the arts. Its time to turn up the volume," said Stillman.

One new collaborative program for example is *Creative InnerView*. Art Guide San Diego, Dusty Dawn Productions and The Studio Door have begun production on this video series with diverse artists Joi Cole, Sam Lopez, Isaac "Optimus Volts" Coronado, Melissa Walter and Randall Christopher. Planned segments will showcase visual artists working in different media, delve into the lives of working artists and check in with San Diego's expanding arts scene. Following the launch in February, The Studio Door will set in motion new programs: Uptown After Hours, Inside the Artist Studio Tours, Young Arts Patrons Ice Cream Social, and Arts Hillcrest. In March, the gallery will curate the fifth annual THE CROW SHOW in collaboration with Chris

Redfern, Executive Director of the San Diego Audubon Society. Details will roll on throughout the spring on the website thestudidoor.com and social media.

The gallery will open to the public on Saturday, February 2nd with an all day open house with pop up art and music from noon to 7 PM. The Studio Door is located at 3867 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103-3113 between University Avenue and Robinson Avenue in the Hillcrest Neighborhood.

The gallery will be showcasing artists included Patric Brown, Patrick McMahon, Carol Mansfield, Michelle Montrose, Mr. Maxx Moses, and Andrea Overturf. Exhibiting artists who will regularly feature in the space include Linda Litteral, Katya Mezhova, Astha Saini, Christina Ilene Thomas, Michelle Trask and members of Clay Artists of San Diego. Studio artists are Farah Ajoodanifar, Kaitlyn Alfaro, Dania Brett, Angela González, Crisinda Lyons Stephen Milner, Atul Pande, Christina Schulz, Chris Smith, Holly Sutor, Tim Stockton, and Stefan Talian.

For more information on The Studio Door and its Hillcrest opening, visit thestudidoor.com or call 619-255-2867

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Calendar Information

Grand Opening
Saturday, February 2
Noon - 7 PM

The Studio Door
3867 Fourth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
619-255-2867
forallweknow@thestudidoor.com

Images

Stillman.jpg Patric Stillman greets Hillcrest outside of the new gallery
<http://thestudidoor.com/inside/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Stillman.jpeg>

Smith.jpg Chris Smith take a moment in his new studio
<http://thestudidoor.com/inside/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Smith.jpg>

Gallery.jpg Gallery shot of sculpture by Andrea Overturf and paintings by Christina Ilene Smith

<http://thestudidoor.com/inside/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Gallery.jpeg>

Moses.jpg Paintings by internationally renown street artists Mr. Maxx Moses

<http://thestudidoor.com/inside/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Moses.jpeg>

Additional information, photographs and interviews available upon request.

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