

LIC Open Studios: 10 Must See Artists

on May 19, 2016



By Jason Andrew

Long Island City has long been one of New York’s most vital communities for contemporary art. The history can be traced back to the 70s with the opening of Alanna Heiss’ P.S.1, where between the first exhibition in 1976 to the renovation in 1997, it served as studio, performance, and exhibition space in support of artists from around the world. I remember volunteering to help install that Julian Schnabel which remains etched into the ceiling of one of the towers. When the institution merged with MoMA in 2000 following a building-wide renovation [P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center \(now MoMA PS1\)](#), it confirmed its position as the leading contemporary art center in New York and Long Island City as a destination.

In 1985, sculptor Isamu Noguchi converted an industrial building on Vernon Blvd into a permanent museum to display what the artist considered to be definitive examples of his life’s work. [The Noguchi Museum](#) and outdoor sculpture garden is considered in itself to be one of the artist’s greatest works.

In 1986, under the leadership of sculptor Mark di Suvero, a group of artists and community members reclaimed a riverside landfill just up the road from Noguchi. Used as an illegal dumping site, the plot of abandoned land was transformed into a neighborhood park for local residents and an open studio and exhibition space for artists. This year [Socrates Sculpture Park](#) celebrates their 30th Anniversary! Socrates remains one of my favorite places in all of New York.

[SculptureCenter](#) arrived in 2001 purchasing a former trolley repair shop and recruiting artist and designer Maya Lin to renovate and re-imagine a center for sculpture.

This weekend the [6th Annual LIC Arts Open is happening!](#) Since 2011, LIC Arts Open (Queens’ largest arts festival) has been bringing together artists, residents, businesses, tourists, local government, art enthusiasts and collectors to help foster Long Island City’s cultural and economic development. The festival has done much to raise the profile of Long Island City, home to one of the largest and most diverse arts communities in New York City.

[Here is a link to download the event brochure and artist registry](#)

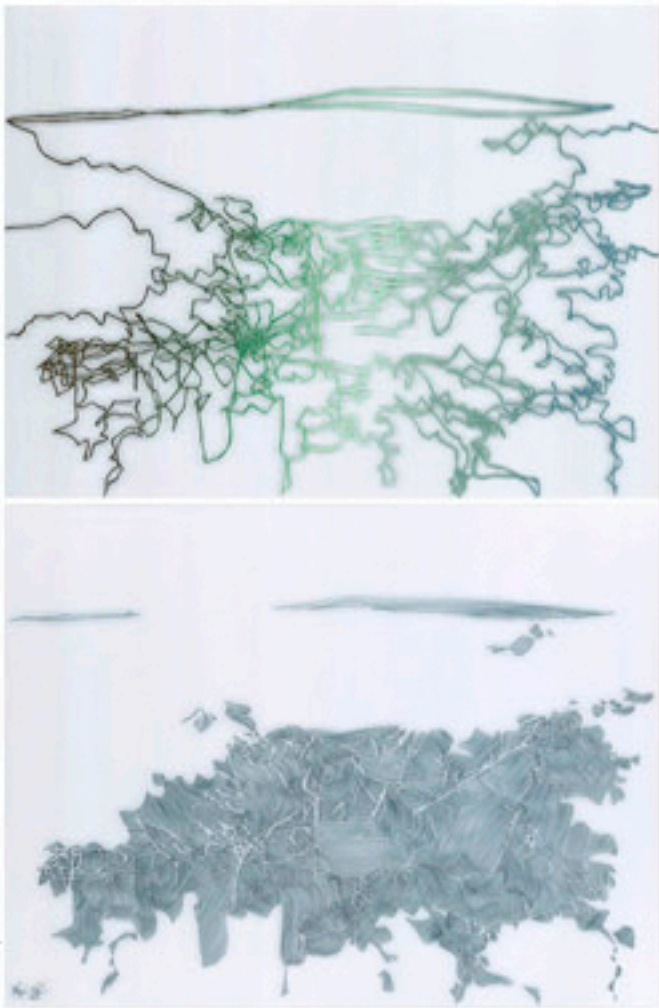
With sculpture in mind, and as a followup to our suggestions for Greenpoint Open Studios two weeks ago, **here are 10 Must See Artist Picks for LIC Arts Open Studios:**

Marjorie Van Cura

Reis Studios, 43-01 22nd Street, #239 (btwn 44/43 Ave)

Marjorie Van Cura’s art explores universal ideas of incongruous dualities: chaos/order, natural/artificial, destruction/regeneration. Her new series of work is influenced by the terrible beauty of natural disasters –earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and severe drought. AP news photography provides a basis for her blind contour drawings and remembered imagery of the devastated, post-destruction landscapes. She bases her finished work on these original line drawings, which she hand-traces repeatedly in overlapping iterations. The resulting complexity of woven calligraphic line and optical color create a visually intense, visceral experience.

www.marjorievancura.com



Tags: [Alanna Heiss](#), [Ana De La Cueva](#), [Bonnie Rychlak](#), [BrickHouse](#), [BrickHouse Ceramic Art Center](#), [Bushwick Open Studios](#), [Cara Lynch](#), [ceramic](#), [Ellen Day](#), [Isamu Noguchi](#), [LIC Arts Open](#), [Liene Bosque](#), [Long Island City](#), [Marjorie Van Cura](#), [Mark di Suvero](#), [Maud Bryt](#), [MoMA PS1](#), [Noguchi Museum](#), [Norte Maar](#), [open studios](#), [painting](#), [Peter Goldwater](#), [PS1](#), [Scorates Sculpture Park](#), [sculpture](#), [Sculpture Center](#), [SculptureCenter](#), [Socrates](#), [Wendy Klemperer](#), [Windy Noviardy](#)

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