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ArtBus ready to bring together art communities

Friday, September 28, 2007

By Samantha Ragland
Contributing writer

Syracuse art lovers can experience the galleries of Rochester by catching a ride on the ArtBus.

This fledgling art appreciation field trip, sponsored by two arts organizations, exposes bus riders to galleries and shows in each city. Syracuse residents can climb aboard Oct. 5.

It is "the idea of a cross-city cultural exchange," says Andrew Mount, executive director of ThINC, a Syracuse nonprofit art organization.

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Creators of the ArtBus, Mount and Bleu Cease, executive director of the Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo), want the bus to become a regular means of contact and collaboration between the artists and communities of the Upstate cities.

Still in its beginning stages, the ArtBus only travels between Syracuse and Rochester, but Mount and Cease hope to include Buffalo, as an overnight trip, by the end of the year.

"The larger perspective is that these three cities, when taken together, offer a large, culturally rich experience, one to rival a larger city like Philadelphia," Cease says.

On Oct. 5, Rochester's citywide gallery night, known as "First Friday," will welcome Syracuseans on the ArtBus with a full schedule.

Visits are planned to Night Gallery, Gallery r, Image City Photography Gallery, Baobab Cultural Center and to the evening's host, RoCo.

The exhibitions range from the act of drawing and X-ray photography to a 9/11 index-card collection and "FUSION," which features the work of graduate students from Syracuse University and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Last week, the first Rochester ArtBus carried 36 passengers to Syracuse for its "Third Thursday" (Th3), the citywide art open house. Courtney Rile, of Syracuse's Delavan Art Gallery, gave the pre-gallery talk on the ride while poet Ralph Black did a reading.

Patrons visited ThINC, The Warehouse Gallery, Redhouse, Delavan Art Gallery, Lipe Art Park, Light Work Gallery and the Irving Video Project, Cease says.

While Rochester visitors to "Th3" only had 20 minutes in each gallery, they were a "real

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gregarious crowd," says Cease. The point was "to get a taste of Syracuse," he says.

Tickets for the Oct. 5 Syracuse to Rochester ArtBus are \$35. To purchase, call or e-mail ThINC at 729-7483 or info@thinc.org. More information also can be found at www.rochestercontemporary.org/art_bus.html.

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