

Art: On the Art Scene - Saving the Asian American Arts Centre

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Fighting an eviction notice, the Asian American Arts Centre, a non-profit arts gallery with its early roots in the Asian American Arts Movement decided give an exhibition in protest. The gallery has been in Chinatown at its 26 Bowery address for 28 years. The show, opening tonight, is appropriately named "New York Eviction Blues."

The exhibition was put together by artist Chee Wang Ng and Art Centre director Bob Lee and includes a number of well known artists, such as photographer Corky Lee and Charles Nguyen, who have worked with the Arts Centre before. The show is in two parts with over 50 artists participating. ABC No Rio, also a non-profit in the Lower East Side, will be host to the second part of the exhibition from April 21-May 12.

The Arts Centre has served as an important archive for Asian American artists' slide and documents over 1500 artists in its files. The eviction notice puts the archive at risk, and also threatens the future of non-profit spaces for emerging artists in the city.

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