

*A Neighborhood Gallery for the World*

August 21, 2007

Dear friend of Manifest,

Manifest is growing up! The organization was formed out of a belief it would benefit the neighborhood and residents of Walnut Hills, as well as the City of Cincinnati. As you and others have proven, this has been true without a doubt. But to our surprise, we have discovered that we have become a neighborhood gallery for the world! About a quarter of the artists we exhibited in season 3 were from the Cincinnati region, which means the 87 others were from all over the country and beyond. We feel this provides immeasurable value to both our local population and to those artists from afar who share their inspired work at Manifest in Cincinnati. Our goal to be a crossroads of artistic intellect and inspiration is coming true more quickly than we could have dreamed.

Last September's membership campaign brought us 67 new or renewing members. Manifest could not have achieved another exceptional season without the support of these generous individuals and the enthusiasm of our patrons and artists. We hope you will help us achieve our goal of 100 members for season 4.

During season 3, Manifest:

- expanded its board of directors, adding a seasoned architect, a museum curatorial assistant, and a marketing manager to help broaden our vision.
- implemented the new position of Junior Board Member and appointed our first two student members.
- received submissions from several countries and nearly every state in the U.S.
- exhibited a total of 127 artists (46 of whom were students) in 12 exhibitions.
- attracted nearly 2,400 people to the gallery.
- enjoyed critical success in reviews featuring our exhibits and programs, including a six-page article in the national publication *Drawing Magazine*.
- produced eight Manifest volumes in full color, as well as the *2006 National Drawing Annual* featuring 68 works by 33 national and international artists.
- relocated our Drawing Center Studio to Walnut Hills and increased the number of Open Figure drawing sessions.
- worked with the Cincinnati Art Museum's *Art for Life* program and presented 7 public lectures and workshops.
- hosted a special lecture, exhibit, and workshop by world-renowned concept designer Scott Robertson.
- collaborated with Summerfair in their Emerging Artists exhibit for the second year.
- remained free and open-to-the-public with regular hours five days a week.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Manifest's entire staff and board of directors have been unpaid volunteers. Season 4 begins on September 28 and will arrive complete with Manifest's first paid staff. As of the writing of this letter we are reviewing several exceptional applications to the position of Assistant Director at Manifest. This will mark the beginning of our work to solidify the ongoing operation of Manifest's gallery and studio programs by an exceptional team of paid professionals.

To make these plans a reality we need your continued support. Manifest exists only through the help of generous donations, conscientious volunteers, community assistance, and public grants—all support we cannot survive without. Please let us know you want Manifest to continue offering the kind of exhibits, programs, and services seen in our first three years by becoming a member. Your support will help make our fourth season even more successful than the last.

Enclosed you will find information on how to contribute as well as options for membership. Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Thank you for supporting Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,



Jason Franz, Executive Director