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News 12 Brooklyn Features Collaborative Arts Project by Pratt Students, Faculty, and Alumni

A News 12 Brooklyn video recently featured a group of Pratt graduate and undergraduate students along with alumni who are currently artists in residence at the Pfizer building. They are engaged in a multifaceted creative reuse project organized by Vida Sabbaghi, Pratt alumna (B.A. Art History '11; M.S. Art and Design Education '14) and founder and director of COPE NYC, an interdisciplinary arts program that uses innovative ways to bridge communities. Jean Shin, adjunct professor of fine arts (B.F.A. '94; M.S. Art History '96), coordinated the collaborative project.

The student artists in residence are using a warehouse full of discarded furniture and construction materials from Acumen Capital, which owns the Pfizer building, and materials from Materials for the Arts (MFTA) to create exciting new projects for the community. Some are weaving brightly colored discarded ropes into mats for children who will be coming to the building for workshops.

Some are working with Brooklyn Research, a company based in the Pfizer building, to create an interactive maker space for audiences to engage in the art making process using recycled technology waste. They are also networking with graduate students from other colleges and commercial artists in residence who also focus on sustainable practices. On November 16, they will connect with K-12 students through art making workshops that will promote a dialogue about the importance of choices families can make to protect the environment. Pratt student work will be on display on the third floor of the Pfizer building at 630 Flushing Avenue from November 16 to December 16 for the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...& the 4th R – Reimagine* exhibit, and the opening will be held on November 19 from 3 to 5 PM. This event, sponsored by COPE NYC, New York City Art Teachers Association/United Federation of Teachers (NYCATA/UFT), and MFTA, will be shown together with student work from Columbia University and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as K-12 student work created with recycled materials.

In conjunction with the opening, from 5-8 PM on the ground floor will be *Repsychling*, an exhibition featuring the works of artists who apply sustainable practices to their work, including Alice Hope, Sui Park, and Chin Chin Yang. Shin's work will also be exhibited at this time. From 5 to 6 PM, *Repsychling* will open with a show of sustainable fashion—clothes designed and made by high school students and a performance by contributing artist Chin Chin Yang.