

HELLO 10TH WEST GALLERY, GOODBYE IDADA

A look at 10th West Gallery, as IDADA has its last membership exhibition.

BY DAN GROSSMAN // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

It was a night of milestones, some historically important, some dubious. It was Thursday, the release day of the motion picture *Thor: Ragnarok*. It was also the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

And Thursday, Nov. 2 was the night of the VIP Preview Party — the first-ever exhibition — at the brand new 10th West Gallery at the Stutz Business & Arts Center.

The Indy Collective is a group of Indianapolis-based artists that will have their work showcased in this gallery on a permanent basis.

They will open the 10th West Gallery doors to the public to show their work 5 to 9 p.m. on both Thurs. Nov 30th and Friday, Dec 1st after renovations are completed, although they don't plan on continuing with First Friday events after this date. But with the food truck festivals competing with the many art openings on any given First Friday, the organizers wanted to shake things up a bit. And they don't just want to shake up the First Friday scene.

"The old school thing of having a gallery show up and represent you and take things from you and sell it; it's not happening," says 10th West Gallery director Susan Brewer, who is also an exhibiting artist in the group. (Other members include Steve Paddock, Constance Ed-

wards Scopelitis, Cagney King, Richard Emery Nickolson, David Kleeman, Ann McKenzie Nickolson, Autumn Keller and Philip H. Campbell.)

So the group, which has displayed its work together at various pop-up venues since 2014, decided to inaugurate 10th West as a permanent exhibition space.

In addition to featuring this collective of artists, the gallery will also organize rotating exhibits of guest artists.

"There's definitely a need for another gallery downtown but this is a focus on contemporary fine art," says Brewer. "Our collective experience [as artists] is everything from awards to fellowships to all types of exhibitions; it's a platform to really raise the bar as far as contemporary fine art. The real goal here is to get people out in front of the art, to meet the artist; that's why we're doing this."

The exhibition space was formerly occupied by the Raymond James Stutz Art Gallery. The former gallery, which was run by the Stutz Artists Association, had its last show this spring.

10th West is based on a for-profit model, unlike many large gallery spaces in Indianapolis. The proprietor is Mark Reichel, a patent and information attorney based at the Stutz. The gallery is currently undergoing renovations and was soliciting financial support on Nov. 2 from patrons to cover the cost of said renovations.



"BRUISES" BY CAGNEY KING //

THE LAST HURRAH FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS DOWNTOWN ARTISTS AND DEALERS ASSOCIATION (IDADA).

If you had been at the VIP Preview, you could've picked up a copy of the Nov. IDADA First Friday brochure, listing art gallery receptions and openings (in between, say, browsing the wall-hanging, painted carvings of Philip Campbell and the large scale portraiture of Cagney King.)

It's the last-ever brochure to be printed by IDADA. As of January 1, 2018, the organization will cease to exist. But they will not be going out without a "last hurrah" party scheduled for Nov. 16, at the Circle City Industrial Complex's Schweitzer Gallery where you will be able to also check out IDADA's final membership exhibition.

It's a sign of the changing art landscape that the last IDADA exhibit is being held in the Circle City Industrial Complex, rather than, say, Fountain Square.

It could be argued that the rise of Circle City Industrial Complex as a home for studios and gallery spaces is one of the big arts milestones in the past several years in Indy's art scene.

Maybe, in retrospect, the opening of 10th West will be seen as an equally important milestone. Susan Brewer, it seems, would certainly like to think so.

"When we hang a show it's like, 'Fuck, we're good, look at the diversity,'" she says. ■