

For Immediate Release
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The Alley Art Project

*A community-based public art project located in Nord Alley in Pioneer Square
Opening Reception: First Thursday, May 5, 2011, 5-9pm*

Pratt Fine Arts Center is pleased to announce the unveiling of ***The Alley Art Project*** on May 5 from 5-9pm in Seattle's Pioneer Square. The public art project, created in partnership with [Alley Art](#), seeks to reclaim alleys for pedestrians, making the neighborhood more lively and sustainable. The latest phase of the project, located in the alley just south of Occidental Park, features a glass and metal sculpture, a permanent installation of decorative metal panels designed to secure a rotating display of artwork, and an architectural trellis to facilitate urban landscaping. Metal artist and Project Lead Patrick Maher worked with glass artist Christopher Sternberg-Powidzki of Glasshouse Studios and interns Christine Betow, Tyron Zane Hutcheson, Matthew Nelson, James Salay, Kareem Tai and Alair Wells to complete the project. The opening celebration will also feature artwork created by the interns.



The Alley Art Project draws upon the energy and ideas of Pioneer Square neighbors to diagnose the problems in one forgotten space - the alley running parallel to and east of First Avenue South between Main Street and Jackson Street - and to forge solutions. Working with a broad base of community supporters, skilled artist and Pratt instructor Patrick Maher designed a unique public sculpture and versatile, permanent fixtures to enhance the space visually and allow for flexible use. [Jones & Jones Architects](#) and the [International Sustainability Institute](#) donated design and project management time, respectively. [Glasshouse Studio](#) provided \$25,000 of glass work to display in the alley. The project is funded in part by a Neighborhood Matching Fund award from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

What: *The Alley Art Project*: Patrick Maher, Christopher Sternberg-Powidzki, Christine Betow, Tyron Zane Hutcheson, Matthew Nelson, James Salay, Kareem Tai and Alair Wells

When: Artist Reception: Thursday, May 5, 2011, 5-9pm

Where: Nord Alley (just south of Occidental Park in Pioneer Square between 1st Avenue S. & Occidental Avenue AND Main St. & Jackson St.)

Artist Bios:

Patrick Maher studied at the Art Institute of Boston and Cornish College of the Arts. He has worked as a blacksmith since 1992 and founded [Red Door Studios](#) in 1996. Patrick has created extensive public and private artworks, including projects for the Edmonds Ferry Terminal, Meridian Playground and several Seattle p-patches.

Christopher Sternberg-Powidzki started his career in glass at the age of 15 as an apprentice at Thames Glass in Newport, Rhode Island before following his career to Seattle. Chris has studied with Bennett Jordan and Lino Tagliapietra at Pratt Fine Arts Center, and with Petr Novotny at Pilchuck Glass School. He is currently the head gaffer and production manager at Glasshouse Studio.



Christine Betow received a BA in Music Theory and Mathematics from Whitman College as well as a BA from Western Washington University in Outdoor Recreation. Somehow this odd assortment of interests led her to Pratt, where she began taking classes in fabricating and forging in 2008. Her work was most recently shown at Burning Man.

Tyron Zane Hutcheson studied at Evergreen State College. He travels widely and has spent time at Pratt as a sculpture studio monitor, independent artist and student.

Matthew Nelson is an independent artist, sculpture studio renter and student at Pratt Fine Arts Center.

James Salay received a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington and a BA from Evergreen State College. He teaches sculpture classes at Pratt and has worked as a sculptor, craftsman and engineer. James works primarily in wood, metal and stone and is associated with the Burning Man Project.

Kareem Tai is a Connecticut native who originally came to Seattle to study social work and explore the Olympic Peninsula. He's been a musician since childhood and has been making steel sculpture for several years. Kareem works in Pratt's sculpture studios as a studio monitor and independent artist.

Alair Wells received a BFA in Sculpture from The Atlanta College of Art and an MFA in Sculpture from Louisiana State University. Alair has organized and participated in several iron casting workshops and events nationwide; her mixed-media installations have been exhibited in Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York. She taught sculpture and installation classes at Binghamton University before relocating to Seattle in 2006. Alair teaches at Pratt and works as a metal fabricator and blacksmith at Ballard Ornamental Ironworks.

Images: *The Alley Art Project* in progress. Photos courtesy of Red Door Studios.
High resolution images available upon request.

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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