



March 4th – March 27th, 2016**
Opening reception: March 4th, 2016 & 5th 7-10pm**
Gallery hours: Saturday 11-5pm

PLATFORM and **LITTLE BERLIN** are pleased to present a never before seen event for either space: A GALLERY SWAP. Exhibitions will include:

PLATFORM is pleased to present THE ROAD TO RIO, a solo exhibition of works by DAVE EASSA at LITTLE BERLIN. THE ROAD TO RIO will be opening Friday March 4th, 2016.

LITTLE BERLIN is pleased to present MAKE & DO (The Adventures of Soxx 2013 - 2015) a solo exhibition of works by Jenny Drumgoole curated by Luke Leyden at PLATFORM GALLERY. MAKE & DO will be opening Saturday March 5th, 2016.

*****Allergy warning - There will be approximately 2,000 peanuts on display in the gallery.**

THE ROAD TO RIO

The weekend warrior, rad dad, coach, or the weirdo down the street, everyone has one, everyone grew up around one. They exude passion, tenacity, excitement, some may even say they found the fountain of youth, not letting themselves be confined by the trials and tribulations of middle age and societal constructs. Regular things like the 9 to 5 lifestyle, parenting, office culture, or money issues that have the ability to turn most adults into shells of their former selves are taken in stride while they continue on. In the “Road to Rio”, Eassa creates a character that exists within a no frills olympic training facility through painted sculpture. It tells the story of Dad following what is considered to be the most elite sporting event in the world in his own way. In solidarity, the Dad has built his own renditions of traditional Olympic disciplines like the pole vault, track and field, shot putt, archery, and gymnastics in a way that utilized the materials from his immediate environment, suburbia. Utilizing empty Heineken mini kegs from the block parties as a shot putt, old plywood for his archery target, and over time as he fathered 5 children, he stole enough plastic balls from the McDonald’s playplace to fill a landing pit for the pole vault. The “Road to Rio” allows the Dad to train with the elite while praising and questioning the idea of mediocrity, individuality, the working class, patriarchy, elitism, amongst others. Eassa’s work

consistently questions the societal constructs surrounding himself and others, exploring how he exists within these constructs, known or unknown, on his own terms.

DAVE EASSA is a painter and activist living and working in Baltimore. He received his BFA in Painting with a concentration in Printmaking from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2013. Recent solo and two person exhibitions include “WIDE EYED” with Nicole Dyer at Savery Gallery and “My Mother Always Told Me I’d Grow Up To Be A Lawyer” at Vox Populi both in Philadelphia, PA. He has shown nationally and internationally in exhibitions most notably at LVL3 (Chicago, IL), SessionSpace (Oakland, CA.), Sophiajacob (Baltimore, MD.), Artisphere (Roslyn, VA.), Marianne Boesky Gallery (New York, NY.), artSTRAND (Provincetown, MA), Reh Kunst (Berlin, Germany), Current Space (Baltimore, MD.), and Casa das Artes Criação Ambiente Utopias (Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe). His work has been published in New American Paintings No. 112, Studio Visit Magazine Volume 25, and The Pinch Journal. In 2014 he was awarded an Individual Artist Grant in Sculpture from the Maryland State Arts Council and is currently a Baltimore Community Fellow with the Open Society Institute through 2017.

Eassa is the founder and director of Free Space, an artist run organization, which brings arts classes to incarcerated individuals within the Maryland prison system. The weekly classes, along with the Visiting Artist Program, exposes individuals to ideas, time, materials, and skills that help to build confidence and instill passion in these individuals. Free Space brings programming to the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup, the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, and Dorsey Run Correctional Facility. Free Space collaborates and works with Baltimore Youth Arts, under the name The Blank Page Project. Free Space has received support from the Maryland State Arts Council and a Merit Award from the Gutierrez Memorial Foundation and The Blank Page Project has received support from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts and the Contemporary for collaborative programming.

MAKE & DO

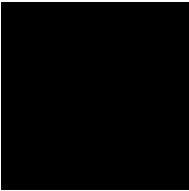
“That’s what *Make and Do* is all about - an adventure into the world of arts and crafts, a world in which you can make exciting things happen”

-from the introduction to *Make and Do* from the Childcraft How & Why Library (1981 edition)

In 2012, Philadelphia based artist, Jenny Drumgoole, created the whimsical and disarming character “Soxx”. The book *Make and Do*, serves as Soxx’s blueprint for engaging the world. The projects in the book are simple, unrefined (and often bizarre) and utilize trash (empty containers, cans, bottle caps) and household items (uncooked pasta, beans, and fabric scraps) as art materials.

Then in 2013, Soxx took her arts and crafts projects out into the world. At the center is Happy Trash Day!!! Starting in 2013, Soxx began hosting surprise “thank you” parties for her sanitation workers, then at various locations around the city. The parties include refreshments, costumes, party favors and a ton of balloons.

When the parties started to get more attention, the tone shifted to drawing awareness to reality that the sanitation workers had been working without a contract or raise from the city for more than seven years. Soxx dances across the line dividing self-involvement and the public sphere in an effort to penetrate and perhaps destroy the screen(s) that keep us from connecting with each other in real time and space.



Make & Do (The Adventures of Soxx 2013 - 2015) features videos, costumes, crafts and various paraphernalia from Happy Trash Days, the kickstarter funded Happy Trash Day summer blitz, Soxx's run for mayor as a write-in candidate in 2015, and Soxx's internet job that funds the project.

JENNY DRUMGOOLE is a Philadelphia artist who inserts herself into marginal spaces for pseudo-celebrity within popular culture. Her most recent video-based performance work focuses on the nature of symbols and narrative structures through the lens of how contemporary technologies, structures and economies affect on the individual's relation or placement in society. Her work has been shown both nationally and internationally, but exists primarily to be viewed online. A discussion of her work will appear in the forthcoming Blackwell Companion to Public Art (2016). Drumgoole received her MFA in photography from the Yale School of Art in 2006.

LITTLE BERLIN is a cooperative exhibition space run by approximately 10 people who curate the space using a collaborative, do-it-yourself ethic. Located in Kensington, Philadelphia, members actively pursue community outreach through ongoing projects such as the Philadelphia Public History Truck, The Fairgrounds community garden as well as monthly exhibitions. As opposed to an artist cooperative, we do not usually show our own artwork. Instead, we feature emerging and established artists from the neighborhood, from around Philadelphia, and from across the country.

PLATFORM was founded in 2014 by Lydia Pettit and Abigail Parrish on the first floor of Platform Arts Center. Functioning as a commercial gallery, Platform promises to create driving, thought-provoking shows that question the relationship between artist, curator, and community as well as providing opportunities for Baltimore and regional artists to show their work. Run by women, Platform is an open, safe space for artists of all genre to meet and collaborate with community members of any class, race, gender, or age in hopes of influencing future shows and programming. Exhibitions span from new age artists that are influential to contemporary art to curated historical investigations of art in Baltimore. Platform promises to excite audiences beyond the art community, challenge convention, create new paths, and open its doors to change.