



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fourth Arts Block presents "A Closer NY" & "Amilcar and the Mermaid" Public Art Exhibition

**Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 3:00 PM-5:00 PM
East Fourth Street between Bowery and 2nd Avenue**

NEW YORK – On Saturday January 24, 2009, Fourth Arts Block (FAB) will open "ArtUp", its public art program, with a show titled "A Closer NY" of works by Sherry Mills and with featured artist, Amir Bey. Artwork is installed on scaffolding bridge as part of ArtUp's street-side gallery. The mission of ArtUp is to divert attention from the stodgy and dodgy look of scaffolding and redirect adverse notions to an edification of the performing and visual arts community that it conceals.

As new buildings thrust upwards from the bedrock, the city's skyline undergoes significant changes. More and more passersby become less sensitive to scaffolding and industrial equipment that commandeer sidewalks. This form of sensory adaptation debilitates aesthetic recognition. "A Closer NY" encourages the audience to seek beauty in imperfections.

Sherry Mills is a photographer and a performance artist. She graduated from The University of New Hampshire for Painting, and spent time in Italy studying sculpture. Mill's recent years have been flagged by curatorial work for the NY Arts Magazine and Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer, for a two month solo exhibit and honorary reception in his office gallery.

Amir Bey is a sculptor, set and costume designer, curator, and astrologer who is also a long standing resident of East 3rd Street. He has spent his time in the Bronx, California, Michigan and Turkey. His work was exhibited at the Lower East Side Printshop, NY, The Mwanga Collection, Oakland, CA The Printmaking Workshop, NY, The Schomberg Collection, NY. He was also commissioned by the New York City Transit Museum for a permanent Installation 2006 Mount St. Eden Subway Station. "Amilcar and the Mermaid" (variation IV), is devoted to the notion of people as waves and streams whose movements can be seen as processes of social evolution.

**Exhibition will run from Saturday, January 24, 2009 through
Friday, April 24, 2009 and is open to the public.**

Opening reception will begin at 3:00PM at Cuppa Cuppa 75 E. 4th Street. All guests are invited to discounted beverages courtesy of Cuppa Cuppa and will receive a FREE FAB Pass that provides discounts to shows, readings, classes, and workshops. FAB Friends will receive a complimentary box card set courtesy of Sherry Mills.

In addition to opening of "A Closer NY", the East Village History Project will hold a walking tour of Downtown's Historical Theater Row. It begins at 2:00PM. Please RSVP to Lauren Parish at lauren@fabnyc.org for further details.

Fourth Arts Block is working with ArtForward to produce this public art program. FAB is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 by cultural and community groups to establish and advance the East 4th Street Cultural District, between 2nd Avenue and Bowery. ArtForward is a fulcrum for creative efforts. It facilitates various collaborations within the art community and businesses outside the visual arts.

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For more information please visit the Fourth Arts Block (FAB) website: www.fabnyc.org or contact
ArtUp Curator Joyce Manalo / Email: joyce@art-forward.com / Phone: (646) 269-9494