

Fine arts; raw spaces; historical mash-ups; local legends; no frills; extra fringe; exposed brick; veiled metaphors; neighborhood heresies; die-hard idealism, general lack of polish; total eclipse of the heart; cultural intersections; surprising encounters; limited internet presence, lavishly analog marketing; occasional performances; constant role-reversals, revelry; redaction; inside- out.

The Inn opened its doors in June 2011 under the directorship of Sarah Humphrey. Initially intended to serve as a temporary project space, it has evolved into a permanent community hub for artistic intrigue, rigorous dialogue, and intellectual inquiry. From traditional rotating exhibitions to interactive performances, music events, and off-site curatorial projects, our reputation for critical curatorial engagement and excellence in artistic partnership continues to grow.

From June through November of 2011, we occupied a 1500 sq. ft., gutted building in Shadyside as “The College Inn Project,” named for the bar that had been the last business to employ the space. The College Inn Project hosted four month-long exhibitions and three film screenings, and numerous other performances and events.

In 2012, we took up residence with an innovative restaurant start-up, Bar Marco, in Pittsburgh’s Strip District. Here, in collaboration with their fresh take on specialty cocktails and food, Sarah curated nearly a dozen exhibitions, performances, talks, and screenings.

With ambitious conceptual evolution and ample community support, we were able to move once again to our very own 5-room space in upper Lawrenceville. Restated as The Inn, we have successfully launched two full-scale, site-specific exhibitions, as well as a number of artist talks, performances, social events, and traveling installations.

Continually in collaborative dialogue, we are a small team of young arts professionals:

Sarah Humphrey, The Inn’s founder and director, is an art historian, critic, curator, and Pittsburgh native. She received her M.A. in the History of Art from The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She has held various positions at major institutions such as The Andy Warhol Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Independent Curators International. She is the former editor of Art Observed, and continues to contribute to publications including The Huffington Post and Pittsburgh City Paper. Sarah maintains a fledgling collection of interesting typewriters and makes frequent trips to Home Depot.

Tessa Eline, gallery manger and senior in Chatham University's Arts Management program.

Nikkia Margaret Hall, curatorial assistant, 2011 Tufts and Museum School graduate, and research associate for the Carnegie Museum of Art.