

Pizza Box Portrait Project Opens at Cherry Street Pier

The Pizza Box Portrait Project
Friday, Sep. 6, 2019, 5 to 8pm
Cherry Street Pier, Main Gallery

The painter, Ed Marion, has an interesting exhibit coming up in September at the Cherry Street Pier. Titled “The Pizza Box Portrait Project,” Marion reached out, in person and via Instagram, to friends, colleagues and strangers with a connection to him, Pennsylvania or Philadelphia, and invited them into his studio to have their portraits painted, for free, on pizza boxes.

The project served both as a catalyst to the artist’s painting practice as well as a direct engagement with the population of Philadelphia, introducing them to the art and artists of the new Cherry Street Pier. Marion chose pizza boxes because they were cheap (he gave the portraits away for free), square (Instagramable), practical (they served as boxes covering the paintings for bad weather transport from the Pier) and ironic (making a family heirloom on something we typically through in the trash on any given night).

In total, 59 prints of the paintings made will hang on the main floor gallery of the Pier, opening First Friday, September 6, 2019 from 5 to 8pm, and running through September 29, 2019. The exhibit is accompanied by an audio tour featuring the artist’s descriptions of his practice and recollections of the conversations which took place with his sitters.

In addition, the artist will host a portrait party for the public at the Pier on Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 2 to 4pm.

The Cherry Street Pier Portrait Party, a free event open to participants of any skill level, will be a “make and take and give” portrait exchange. Participants are encouraged to bring a tear-away pad and a large Sharpie marker, though some materials will be available to the public for free.

For eight 15-minute rounds, participants will pair-up with different artists, sketch each other, and give each other the portrait they make. By the end

of the afternoon, the goal is for everyone to rotate through eight different artists. Each artist will give away the portraits they make and will collect the portraits that are made of them.

This is a party and not a class. So the aim is not to make a perfect portrait but instead to quickly sketch an impression of each other while enjoying the company of fellow artists, young and old. We'll play music. The bar will be available and enjoying the day, our work, and each other's company will be on the menu.

Sketching begins at 2:00 pm sharp so arrive early for orientation.

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