

PRESS RELEASE
Loading Dock Gallery
122 Western Avenue
Lowell, MA

Show: HAT: Seen and Sewn
Show dates: April 2 – April 27, 2014
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 5, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

HAT: Seen and Sewn represents the creative synergy between photographer Jeff Engel and milliner Jeanne Osborne. A celebration of legacy, transformation, nuance and attitude, this unique exhibit captures each artist's exploration of hats through thoughtful and often whimsical 2-D and 3-D work.

Jeanne Osborne leads the viewer on a journey that begins in her grandmother's millinery shop in the 1920's and continues in her own millinery studio at Western Avenue Studios. Inspired by black and white photos of "Memere" in the 50's, 60's and 70's Osborne recreates a few of her grandmother's hats, beckons us to explore her personal collection of vibrant vintage hats and shares her tongue-in-chic vision for hat wearing today.

A self-taught milliner, Osborne works with feathers, tulle, vintage flowers, found objects and a variety of hat forms to create one-of-a-kind hats for women with style and self-confidence. She plays with conventional settings for wearing hats - garden party, bridal, Kentucky Derby – to create contemporary pieces that she hopes will inspire a new breed of hat wearer.

Jeffrey Engel returns to his past as well, taking a break from his recent experiments in photography. With **HAT: Seen and Sewn**, he returns to capturing simple moments and traditional displays but with a focus on imagined realities. He wants his viewers to explore the fine line between things that are real and those that are imagined.

The artistry explored in this pairing was created in history by the existence of a photograph on a shop wall. Engel cites a feedback loop in how Osborne was first inspired by her grandmother's efforts followed by his photographing her hat creations and people who are wearing hats. He states that "the presentation of these photos will try to express this relationship, invoking the idea that you're looking at people on someone's living room wall." Together, Osborne and Engel challenge viewers to look not just at a hat but at the artistic duality that they have created with that hat.

HAT: Seen and Sewn runs from April 2 through April 27 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, Lowell MA, with an opening reception on Saturday, April 5, from 5 to 7 pm. The Loading Dock Gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 12 noon to 5:30 pm and Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm.

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