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BEYOND THE FENCE: BUILDING AN ART GALLERY IN THE NAVY YARD

People think of the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a center of manufacturing or a haven for artists. To Marc Ganzglass, it's both. Mr. Ganzglass is the founder of the Space for Art and Industry www.spaceforartandindustry.com, a gallery inside the new Navy Yard Museum in Building 92 that displays a wide range of exhibitions drawing connections between art and production. "Visitors are predisposed to thinking about the industrial history of the place, the construction of ships and everything that has gone on here since then," he explained. "You're not coming here to see contemporary art. So, I'm interested in showing art, thinking about art in terms of production, and art as a form of production."

Nowhere is this blend of art and production more apparent than in Mr. Ganzglass himself. He's had a knack for manufacturing and artistic ability since his childhood, growing up in Washington, D.C. The same flair accompanied him throughout his career as an artist, along with his desire to provide artistic opportunities to the public. To Mr. Ganzglass, the museum serves as a "permeable barrier" for outsiders to enter the Navy Yard and experience in a way not possible before. Mr. Ganzglass's current project — an exhibition of the tools and creations of Navy Yard craftsman Matthew Lewandowski — originated in 2007, when he moved to an apartment down the street from Mr. Lewandowski and eventually visited his shop. "I saw these walls lined with hundreds of dies in boxes and it was just overwhelming," Mr. Ganzglass said. "Then one day, I saw that he was closing the shop down. I thought that if this went to the scrap yard it would be a tragedy. So I just approached him; and really, that was the antecedent for opening this place in a lot of ways." Mr. Lewandowski passed away last year before he could see the exhibit come to fruition, a lifetime's worth of intricate, handcrafted jewelry dies and concept drawings now on display through March 17.

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The gallery is a center not only for exhibition, but production as well. Mr. Ganzglass has worked with several Navy Yard tenants. Duggal Visual Solutions printed graphics for the first show and David Kuntze at Woodside Press designed and produced the poster for the Lewandowski exhibit. “It’s a very dynamic place,” Ganzglass explains. “What’s most interesting about this is you’ve got a museum that’s dedicated to the history of the Navy Yard, which is the history of production in Brooklyn. You’ve got that adjacent to a lively industrial zone, so the representation and history of industry next to active industry is fascinating.” Mr. Ganzglass envisions a place where artistic practice interacts with evolving models of production. “It’s not only a good place to examine art in terms of production, it’s also one of the only places you can,” he said.

