

ARTS IN THE CITY

RISE UP FOR ARTS

With rising rents favoring condos over cultural venues, some artists have decided to do more than lament. New groups, like Rise Up Creative Music and Art are spearheading what they hope will be a cultural revolution of sorts. Last week musicians packed the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center's Teatro La Tea. They weren't there to sing, but by the end of the two-hour town hall meeting one thing was clear: They wanted their voices heard. "New York needs to learn to be proud of its innovative artists," said **Patricia Nicholson Parker**, a dancer and head of the new – and loosely defined – group Rise Up. "It's not the first time it's been done, but this time – in 2007 – if we start something it's important that we see it through to the end," added bassist **William Parker**. The event was organized to unite local jazz and experimental musicians in the fight for recognition and, more tangibly, a city-sponsored venue, grants and even subsidized housing. One audience member who spoke at the meeting, **Aaron Friedman**, had himself started a grassroots organization, Make Music New York, an annual event in which musicians play outdoors



Musicians performed outdoors throughout the city as part of Make Music New York, part of an arts activism scene that's gaining momentum.

throughout the city. Along with the expected mix of gray ponytails and Chuck Taylor All-Stars, the standing-room-only crowd was filled with neighbors, families and musicians who shared their stories of struggle and paid tribute to **Max Roach**, the legendary drummer who passed away earlier this month. The idea for the pressure group was conceived when music venue Tonic closed this April. The Lower East Side space joined the growing list of shuttered community clubs as a luxury condo rose up above the dingy two-story space, sending waves of protest throughout the music community – culminating

in a demonstration on the steps of City Hall. "This is just the first step; it's not going to come around overnight" said William Parker, amid talk of letter-writing campaigns and a Million Artists March. "It's going to take some time and perseverance and some effort, because you can't change the fabric of society overnight." Almost symbolically, the Rise Up meeting took place in the massive CSV center – a decommissioned school building transformed into four theaters and 60 artist studios and galleries – right in the epicenter of the rapidly changing neighborhood.

—Heather Corcoran

WEEKLY PICKS

Enjoy **Robert Whitman's** film "Sun," while you take in the real thing at the rooftop exhibition at Pace Wildenstein. Through Sept. 1. pacewildenstein.com

"Halloween" comes early this year with director **Rob Zombie's** remake of the classic slasher flick starring **Malcolm McDowell**. Aug. 31. halloween-themovie.com

It's nearing the last chance to check out the International Center of Photography's quartet of summertime shows. Experience different sides of American history through the different exhibitions: "Let Your Motto Be Resistance" explores 50 years of portraits of African American leaders, "Amelia Earhart: Image & Icon" asks what role the media plays in creating a legend, **Stephen Shore's** colorful roadside scenes from the 1970s give new meaning to the mundane in "Biographical Landscape." Or head across the Atlantic with "Chim," **David Seymour's** photographs of post-Civil War Spain. Through Sept. 9. icp.org

Big business gets a humorous critique when the futuristic musical "Walmartopia," a graduate of last year's Fringe Festival, opens at The Minetta Lane Theater on Sept. 3. walmartopia.com

art

movies

photography

theater

SPOTLIGHT

The gallery scene may cool down during the final weeks of the summer, but before Labor Day there are some summer shows worth checking out. At Zwirner & Wirth, "Old School" examines contemporary painting by presenting new work opposite images created as early as the 15th century. Despite

– or possibly because of – nearly half a millennium age difference, the landscapes, portraits and still lifes created by Glenn Brown, John Currin, Michael Borremans and other contemporary artists bear a striking stylistic resemblance to their forebears, imbued with a healthy dose of modern-day irreverence. At once, the contemporary work honors and subverts the Old Master tradition, all the while proving that the tradition of painting is still alive and well. Through Aug. 31.



Courtesy Zwirner & Wirth, New York



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Created in 2006, Richard Wathen's "Once Removed" (left) updates the style of Caesar Boëtius Van Everdingen's "Portrait of a Young Man with Carnation" (above, ca. 1664), bringing it into the 21st century.