

T Suggests: A Rediscovered Funk Record, a New Gallery Upstate and More

A roundup of things our editors — and a few contributors — are excited about in a given week.

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The gallery JDJ/The Ice House in Garrison, N.Y., which overlooks a small salamander-filled pond.
Photo by Kyle Knodell. Courtesy of JDJ.

A Gallery That Feels Like a Friend's Upstate Cabin

Set on six acres of forested land in the hamlet of Garrison, N.Y., JDJ/The Ice House — opened last year by Jayne Johnson, a former director at Peter Freeman Gallery in SoHo — is both a gallery and a private living space. After 16 years working in the art world, and after the arrival of her baby daughter in 2017, Johnson decided to create “a different gallery model,” she says: “I wanted to have a working life that acknowledges my personal life.” While on a weekend trip upstate last year, she learned about a former service compound for an estate that included an early-1900s ice house, once stocked by the freezing over of an adjacent pond. Johnson has converted the ice house into a gallery space. Just feet away is a charming, one-room fieldstone cottage, where she and her family now spend weekends.

With its backdrop of wild grasses and flowers, the space is an antidote to the often frenetic, impersonal gallery-hopping experience in Chelsea — though it's still close to other art-world destinations such as Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center, Dia:Beacon, Storm King and the Magazzino Italian Art Foundation. “It's more like going to a friend's house than going to a traditional gallery,” Johnson says. “Plenty of people that I don't know come, and we end up sitting on our floor in the cottage and having tea in the winter, or they come in the summer and we're just hanging out outside.”

Since its opening, the gallery has presented seven shows, including a recent collection of intricately patterned paintings on hand-loomed linens by the New York artists Mark Barrow and Sarah Parke. On view now through Sept. 2 is the exhibition “Home/Work,” a group show that examines the complexities of domestic labor and female identity. For the exhibition, the Brooklyn artist Anna Plesset explored the grounds of The Ice House, excavated relics from its past — glass bottles, crockery, metal drums — and painted a still life based on what she found. The Los Angeles multimedia artist Barnett Cohen created a colorful pop collage of bumper stickers and decals with cheery, can-do slogans pertaining to motherhood and work. Other featured artists include Irina Arnaut, Hein Koh, Lucia Love and Emily Mae Smith. “I wanted to create something that felt personal to people, regardless of whether you know a lot about contemporary art,” says Johnson of the space. “When you feel like you're welcome, then you get more out of the art.” *JDJ/The Ice House is open by appointment only in Garrison, N.Y. For appointments, email jayne@jbj.world.* — MIMI VU