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Students' Art Show, Booted from Park, Finally Set To Open in DUMBO Students, College, Developer All Agree

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BROOKLYN — All parties involved in the remounting of Brooklyn College's Master of Fine Arts students' thesis exhibition have finally agreed that the show will go on.

The Brooklyn College administration, the MFA students, and developer David Walentas of Two Trees Management have all confirmed that the exhibition will reopen May 24 – June 16, at 70 Washington St. in DUMBO. Walentas offered the 6,000 square-foot retail space to the college two weeks ago.

The opening reception will be held tomorrow, from 6 to 9 p.m. and will include live performances.

Artists in the show include Carla Aspenberg, Jill Auckenthaler, John Avelluto, Zoë Cohen, David Davron, Susan C. Dessel, Carl James Ferrero, Carrie Fucile, Pamela Gordon, Yejin Jun, Diane Kosup, Marni Kotak, Augusto Marin, Akiko Mori, Christopher Moss, Sarah Phillips, Megan Piontkowski and Tamas Veszi.

The embattled MFA exhibition first opened May 3 at the War Memorial Building in Cadman Plaza Park and featured works such as paintings, sculpture, video and performance. Some of the artwork contained sexual content, including a sculpture of a penis in a framed light box and a watercolor depicting gay sexuality.

Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel shut down the exhibit the next day, stating that the College had violated a six-year-old verbal agreement that all exhibits in the city-owned building must be "appropriate for families."

Brooklyn College employees removed the exhibit from the War Memorial May 8 and kept the artworks in storage at the college. The College's administration announced May 11 that the show would reopen at 70 Washington St.

The MFA students did not gain access to their artwork until May 13, when they reported damages and missing pieces, citing that 75 percent of the work had been "badly compromised."

The students say the new exhibition, "Plan B Prevails," will include works previously exhibited at the War Memorial, as well as new works made in response to the original show's closing.

The exhibit is free to the public and is open Wednesday through Sunday from May 24 to June 16, 2006, noon to 6 p.m. or by appointment at Brooklynmfa@gmail.com.