

**Press Release**  
**September 26, 2024**



***Open Window* art exhibit transforms historic Clayton church into a vibrant center for radical acceptance and expression.**

*Open Window*, a large-scale exhibit of visual art, performance, and conversation, opens to the public 6 - 8 pm, Fri., Oct. 18th at The Red Gate Gallery, a creative, community-focused initiative of First Congregational Church of St. Louis at 6501 Wydown Blvd., 63105.

The Red Gate Gallery exhibits artwork addressing contemporary social issues while providing viewers an opportunity to enjoy a religious space outside of a religious event. For *Open Window*, the one-year-old gallery invites artists of all disciplines to bring their definitions of community into a space that has historically defined it for itself. This free, family-friendly event includes a rich spread of homemade food made by church members.

Red Gate co-founders Adrienne Outlaw, Sarah Moon, and Elena Piston opened the space last year as a way to foster community through the arts with the tag "art, music and irl (in real-life) human connection." One year and five exhibits later, they've seen the deep need for a safe space for creative expression. "People from all walks of life gather here for the shows. Progressive religious communities like ours can take such ideas of openness for granted. We want Red Gate to promote radical acceptance and critical creative thought among everyone," says artist and church member Outlaw.

Outlaw is co-curating *Open Window* with Ben Bradshaw, founder of *ArtCrush*, a monthly social networking event for creatives. Outlaw and Bradshaw are giving artists full reign of the space for *Open Window*. "Artists bring a fresh perspective to difficult topics – from racism to sexism to religious bigotry – that encourages deep conversation. People seem to feel safe and welcome here. The energy is infectious," Outlaw says. "We're meeting each other where we are and we're coming back for more. Because of that, we're inviting artists and visitors into the underbelly of the building, beyond the Red Gate Gallery, so that they might reimagine such a space for themselves. In this space people who've had bad or no experiences with religion can let down their guard. We invite everyone to experience it."

The largest indoor installation in the show is by the internationally exhibited artist Peter Manion. Installed in the church's small chapel, it is comprised of three works made with hundreds of 2" x 2" pinewood boards fashioned into open boxes. The work aptly embodies the internal conflict of trying to align spiritual beliefs with the harsh realities of life.

*Open Window* runs Oct. 18 - Dec 1 at The Red Gate Gallery and beyond, featuring 20+ artists. Performances occur only 6 - 8 pm, opening night.

The Red Gate Gallery | New and Experimental Art + Community  
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Peter Manion  
*Resolute* (left), 2024  
*Thoughts and Prayers* (right), 2024  
Site specific installation, Wood

Peter Manion  
*Stuck Chakras*, 2024  
Site specific installation, Wood