

22 September 2003

contact:

Diversity Abounds in Castleberry Hill Lofts

Discover what treasure lies behind the bricks during the second annual Castleberry Hill Loft Tour on Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 11 & 12, 2003. From “the ultimate bachelor pad” to kid-friendly homes, from informal bohemian utilitarianism to price-is-no-object grandeur, from owner-occupied dwelling to rented unit, from a hidden entrance at the edge of the railroad tracks to soaring views of the skyline, this year’s Tour is a showcase full of unique gems. Bill Bounds, co-chair of the organizing committee, is tremendously pleased with the offering. “Last year, we had an excellent group of lofts on the Tour, but this year, the selection committee has significantly raised the bar. I can’t wait to see the response.” The actual working studios of artists Carolyn Carr and Michael Gibson and photographer Cliff Sparkman will also be on view. This year’s lofts – ranging in size from 1500 to 4000+ square feet – truly demonstrate the amazing diversity of the people and properties of Castleberry Hill.

Featured on the 2003 Tour is the home of Steve MacNeil and Walt Bilinski, owners of No Más Productions, who purchased the Aristocrat Ice Cream warehouse that was used as Justine’s Café during the 1996 Olympics. The main living quarters are decorated with a collection of imported hand-crafted artisan products, creating a warm and refreshing juxtaposition to the industrial backdrop of the over-80-year-old brick structure. [Photos available upon request.] MacNeil and Bilinski currently use the adjacent 15,000 sq ft building to warehouse furniture for their store, although plans are underway for turning it into a collection of retail and restaurant spaces. “The railroad spur is really what this area has to offer, and that is the reason these warehouses are here to begin with,” explains MacNeil. “We’re doing our little share to help kick this area into a thriving retail pocket. The combination of live/work is a dream that we have satisfied for ourselves and hope to provide for others.” The architectural model and renderings for the project will be on display.

Area businesses, including restaurants, will be open during the Tour, and exhibition booths will be set up outside the No Más warehouse. Visitors can attend open houses at properties for sale and lease as well. Skot Foreman Fine Art (*M.C. Escher: His Life and Work*; www.skotforeman.com), 3TEN Haustudio (*Art of the Craft: Custom Mission Furniture in the Style of Stickley, Roycroft & Limbert*; www.haustudio.com), and Ty Stokes Gallery (*Lloyd*

Benjamin: New Work, Atlanta; www.tystokes.com) invite tour-goers to linger in the neighborhood to attend receptions for their exhibitions on Saturday evening.

Tour hours are 11:00 am–5:00 pm on Saturday and 12 noon–5:00 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 per person on the days of the Tour. \$12 advance tickets are available on-line at **www.myArtsCard.com** (additional discount for ArtsCard members). **Free parking** is provided courtesy of Fulton Supply Company. Castleberry Hill is a short walk from the Georgia Dome/Philips MARTA station. The historic neighborhood is located on the southwestern edge of Downtown, just south of the Centennial Olympic Park, the CNN Center, Philips Arena, Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center.

Major sponsors of this year's Tour are No Más Productions, Miller-Gallman Developers, and Centennial Station. The fund-raising event is organized by the Castleberry Hill Neighborhood Association.

For more information, please visit **www.castleberryhill.org**.

Galleries Enhance Cachet of Loft Tour

Seven galleries will be opening their doors and hosting receptions in conjunction with the second annual Castleberry Hill Loft Tour, Oct. 11 & 12, 2003. "The lofts alone are reason enough to come, but we'll also be Atlanta's premier art destination that weekend," said Bill Bounds, co-chair of the organizing committee. "We are thrilled to have three great Buckhead galleries taking part in this, reinforcing the growing art scene in Castleberry Hill."

Three galleries anchor the blossoming arts district. Skot Foreman Fine Art (www.skotforeman.com) offers a rare opportunity to see over 80 original drawings, hand-signed prints and watercolors in the museum-quality exhibition *M.C. Escher: His Life and Work*, which has received regional acclaim and a visit from Graham Nash of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. 3TEN Haustudio (www.haustudio.com) presents a two-day exhibit *Art of the Craft: Custom Mission Furniture in the Style of Stickley, Roycroft & Limbert* featuring handcrafted pieces by Robert Hause, along with photography, fiber arts, and Navajo weaving exhibits. Ty Stokes Gallery (www.tystokes.com) is showing *Lloyd Benjamin: New Work, Atlanta*; an emerging young artist working with abstract painting on found paper.

Joining the impromptu festival are three of Atlanta's well-known art purveyors in temporary digs: Fay Gold Gallery (www.faygoldgallery.com) will review contemporary trends in art, emphasizing manipulation of space, alternative processes, provocative use of light, surreal settings, experiments in scale, and social commentary; and Marcia Wood Gallery (www.marciawoodgallery.com) displays a dynamic selection of painting and sculpture by a diverse group of emerging to internationally established artists that embodies the excitement of discovery and inspiration. In addition, Kubatana Moderne (www.kubatana.com) is presenting a selection of furniture and art representative of its interior design philosophy, a fusion of elements from Africa and Asia with the contemporary western aesthetic. The Granite Room (www.bighouseatlanta.com), a recently renovated event space in Castleberry Hill, will be exhibiting original paintings, photography and sculpture.

All the gallery spaces will be open at no charge during the hours of the Tour; each gallery has its own hours and events scheduled on Saturday evening. "We hope people stay past the Tour

closing on Saturday to have dinner and go gallery-hopping. This neighborhood has a great urban energy at night, and it should be a fabulous experience,” Bounds said.

This year's Loft Tour includes the actual working studios of two artists and a photographer. Ranging in size from 1500 to 4000+ square feet, eight authentic lofts exemplify the amazing diversity of the people and properties of historic Castleberry Hill.. Tour hours are 11:00 am–5:00 pm on Saturday and 12 noon–5:00 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 per person on the days of the Tour. \$12 advance tickets are available on-line at **www.myArtsCard.com** (additional discount for ArtsCard members). **Free parking** is provided courtesy of Fulton Supply Company. Castleberry Hill is a short walk from the Georgia Dome/Philips MARTA station. For more information about the Loft Tour, please visit **www.castleberryhill.org**.