



Bodega Revives Old City

This new performance and exhibition space in Old City generated buzz well before it opened in July. Today, it's the most exciting and experimental art venue in the city's so-called arts district, a place where it's now easier to get good coffee than it is to see art that's pushing the envelope. The five Hampshire College grads who run the space—Elyse Derosia, Ariela Kuh, Lydia Okrent, James Pettengill and Eric Veit—saw a need for more experimental programming than they were seeing in their trips around town. So in true Philly fashion, they decided to do it themselves—find a space, sign a lease and get it in shape for exhibits. But, the 20-somethings insist, “We’re not a collective.” But they do collaborate. Because the Bodega-ites feel more kinship with what’s happening on Frankford Avenue than anywhere else in town, they recently teamed up with Extra Extra (where Veit will be performing 7 p.m. this Saturday) for a double-venue exhibit by Alex Da Corte. And on May 14, they are collaborating again for BYOB (beamer, i.e projector), a one-night invitational video, slide and light festival. That’s not to say Bodega doesn’t take pride in its own shows. In fact, Bodega will hold a fundraiser May 7 at the gallery to make some needed improvements to the space. The event will feature music by the Ducktails, food by the new truck Yumtown and an auction/raffle of specially made art for the home. Old City art is back. (Roberta Fallon)

Soft Smoke Rises in Gay Rings Above the Roof: Heidi Norton, Carson Fisk-Vittori, Stephen Eichhorn & Ryan Fenchel: April 1-23, opening reception April 1, 6-10pm. Bodega, 253 N. 3rd St. bodegaphiladelphia.org