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# Relationship between light and darkness explored in Curious Matters exhibit

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By Brendan Carroll/For The Jersey Journal Follow

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Several thousand people are expected to view the work of more than 200 individual artists in nearly 100 exhibitions over the next couple of days.

Throughout the Jersey City Artists Studio Tour, visitors will be able to watch artists at work in their studios, witness performance art and works-in-progress along the street, and explore the neighborhood with help from community historians.

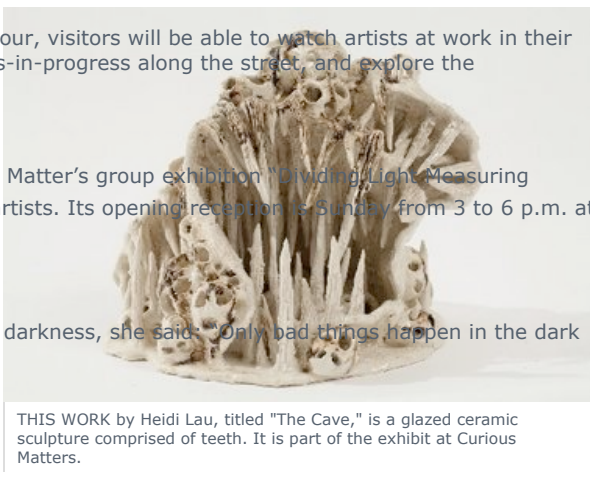
A must-check of the 21st edition is Curious Matter's group exhibition "Dividing Light Measuring Darkness," which features the work of 23 artists. Its opening reception is Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. at the gallery at 272 Fifth St., in downtown Jersey City.

When I asked a friend what she thought of darkness, she said: "Only bad things happen in the dark like monsters, cholera, and nightmares. That's when the wolves come out, and the ghosts too."

To view this exhibition a viewer must check his or her preconceived notions about light and darkness at the door. Do not expect a toe-to-toe battle between good and evil. (If you want that business, go watch "Star Wars.")

Inspired as much by the Judeo-Christian tradition notions of light and darkness as by modern science, Curious Matter approaches the alleged dichotomy in an objective manner. According to their press release, Curious Matter writes: "We need light to see. We need darkness to dream."

Works in the show include Heidi Lau's "The Cave," a glazed ceramic sculpture comprised of teeth; Abraham McNally's sculpture of firewood and mirrors; Brian Edgerton's (False Color) Foil, an experimental video of refracted and reflected light; Hannah Kirkpatrick's Eye Cavern, a glass sphere



THIS WORK by Heidi Lau, titled "The Cave," is a glazed ceramic sculpture comprised of teeth. It is part of the exhibit at Curious Matters.

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reminiscent of a morbid crystal ball; Erin R. Hudak's, Wait! from the series A Wolf Is Not Always A Wolf, an acrylic painting on found book page with vintage comic; and Kym O'Donnell's After Stavely Bulford, a cyanotype portrait of a woman haunted by specter.

Raymond E. Mingst and Arthur Brusco operate Curious Matter out of the parlor room of their row home, which opened in 2007. To date, they have organized 13 exhibitions that have featured more than 200 artists from Jersey City, New York, and abroad.

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