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Chicago, September 13, 2026: Hana Pietri Marks Fifteen Years by Opening a New Space in West Town: The Living Room

Founded in 2011 and continually reimagined since, the organization opens its newest space on the 2nd floor of 350 N. Ogden Avenue

Fifteen years ago, Hana Pietri began in response to the need for more connection between the many facets of Chicago's cultural and artistic scene. The platform itself began as an art collector's club, evolved into an art production company, became an alternative exhibition space and is now a mix of it all. This fall, it steps into its newest form yet, opening **The Living Room** at 350 N. Ogden Avenue in West Town. The public gets its first look at the inaugural exhibition, opening Friday, October 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., presenting works by Marvin Tate.

The idea has a specific starting point. In 2011, soon after arriving to Chicago from Paris, French American artist Tiphane Spencer attended a panel discussion at the Union League Club of Chicago featuring Carlos Tortolero, founding president of the National Museum of Mexican Art; Michelle Boone, then commissioner of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and critic James Yood. The trio convened around the question of how Chicago could better support its artists. Spencer left with the decision to start the club that would, over the next decade and a half, become Hana Pietri.

Spencer created Hana Pietri as an anagram of her own full name, one more act of reinvention in a history driven by curiosity. What has remained constant through every change is the mission stated in its own founding literature: "an artist-run platform, a gallery, studio + hub for artistic collaboration and exchange that supports contemporary and self-taught artists through engaging exhibitions and special projects."

"Fifteen years has taught me that staying the same was never really the goal," says Spencer. "Every time the city changed, or the artists we worked with changed, or the economy changed, I tried to treat it as an invitation, an opportunity for growth and deeper connection. This space is the newest way for me to stay true to Hana Pietri's mission and to further explore what a salon can be."

That question shaped the location of the space. Hana Pietri wanted to be inside the daily, ongoing work of art making, and the placement is just that. It sits among artist, design and maker studios, including hers. Intended as a living room set out of context, it is unexpected and intimate, a work in progress and an extension of Spencer's identity and vision. **The Living Room** will continue to support up-and coming and established artists and creatives, present multi-media projects, be collaborative in nature and will treat experimentation and presentation as complementary chapters of the same story.

The expansion builds on more than thirty partner organizations gathered across a decade and a half, including the Chicago Cultural Center, Villa Albertine Chicago, Intuit Art Museum and Elastic Arts Foundation to name a few. A full list of the artists Hana Pietri has worked with, partners, programs and special projects can be found on the website: www.hanapietri.com.

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