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Chicago, September 16, 2026: Hana Pietri Celebrates Fourteen Years

by Opening a New Space in West Town: The Living Room

Founded in 2012 and continually reimagined since, the organization opens its newest space on the 2nd floor of 350 N. Ogden Avenue.

From its roots as an art collectors club to its role as a production company and alternative exhibition space, the original concept has continually evolved. This fall, Hana Pietri steps into its newest form yet, launching **The Living Room** at 350 N. Ogden Avenue in West Town. The debut exhibition opens to the public Friday, October 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., presenting works by Marvin Tate.

Soon after arriving to Chicago from Paris in 2011, French American artist Tiphonie Spencer attended a panel discussion at the Union League Club of Chicago. The round table featured 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: how could Chicago better support its artists? This triggered Tiphonie Spencer to start the club that would, over time, 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 the founding charter: to be an artist run platform. It serves as a gallery, studio and hub for artistic collaboration and exchange, supporting contemporary and self-taught artists through engaging exhibitions and special projects.

"Fourteen years has taught me that staying the same was never really the goal," says Spencer. "Every time the city changes, or the artists we work with change, or the economy changes, I try 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 original question never ceased to linger in mind and is the reason this specific location was chosen. The innovative space 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, present multi-media projects and be collaborative and experimental in nature.

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, Cream Wine Company and Elastic Arts Foundation to name a few. A full list of artists Hana Pietri has supported, partners, programs and special projects can be found on the website: www.hanapietri.com.

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