

MIDTOWN MILIEU

FLEDGLING GALLERISTS ADRIANA D'LAROTTA AND ALBERT THUMANN JAZZ UP JUNIPER.

By Kelly Skinner
Photography by Jimmy Johnston

Adriana D'LaRotta and Albert Thumann are not the types to slow down upon reaching retirement's precipice. D'LaRotta, a former architect, and Thumann, a successful businessman and executive director of the Association of Energy Engineers, have instead tacked on the titles of "gallery owners" to their extensive CVs, after opening doors to Studio 905 on Juniper this spring.

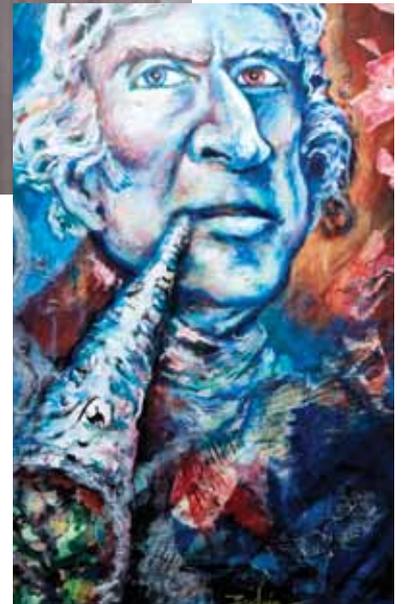
Designed by D'LaRotta, the stark two-story space sits adjacent to The Lawrence in leaf-lined Midtown, filling a void in the neighborhood noticeably absent of galleries. "The whole idea is that I would be able to paint, and Al, if he ever retires, would have [the gallery]. Collecting art has always been a favorite of mine," says D'LaRotta.

The modish gallery's walls are filled with pieces from a global assortment of Latin artists, hailing from locales like Argentina, Australia, Cuba, Mexico and, most dear to D'LaRotta, Colombia. "I grew up in this environment [in Colombia] where our house was always full of musicians, artists and poets. This is an extension of that," she says. Organized primarily by themed exhibits—the space's third exhibit, *Spirituality*, opens Dec. 6, followed by *Sexuality* in February—abstracts and realism compose the majority of the artwork, which trickles into various media.

Alongside paintings by artists such as Federico Torres Bordon and permanent artists Izak Ishraki, Felix Berroa and Monika Ruiz, you



GLOBAL COLLECTION
Clockwise from top:
Owner Adriana D'LaRotta posing with Chor Boogie's "God and State," 8 by 8 feet; "Declaration of Independence" by Federico Torres Bodón; "The United State" by Chor Boogie, 12 by 8 inches, acrylic and mixed media.



can also find a handful of D'LaRotta's paintings and Thumann's photographs. D'LaRotta, though, is quick to add that the two are interested in all genres of art, be it a show on Broadway, a poetry reading or a Taylor Swift concert ("what energy!").

When back home, the two are a popular pair among Atlanta's art and society circuit, and are avid supporters of Museum of Design Atlanta, High Museum of Art and Captain Planet Foundation, among others. The couple is currently working on a partnership with a West Coast gallery, as well as upcoming artist panels, art classes and charity events. Aspiring matchmakers, the duo has also started hosting singles mixers at the gallery, aimed at art advocates. Why not? 905 Juniper St., 404.432.0073, studio905onjuniper.com