

For Hikers Seeking Out Art, Brooklyn Can Be a Left Bank

Finally, anyone in the market for architectural distinction will find rewards in all shapes and sizes. The **WILLIAMSBURG ART AND HISTORICAL CENTER** is in a fabulously decrepit 19th-century pile that once housed the Kings County Savings Bank. The Japanese-born artist Yuko Nii got the space up and running four years ago. Downstairs is pure "Dark Shadows." Upstairs is a huge, cleaned-out, light-filled gallery filled with an engrossing selection of photographs by Y. Nagasaki, who has for years been documenting New York's picaresque sexual subcultures. In an adjoining room, you'll find Frank Jump's photos of fading Brooklyn shop signs, those ghosts of commerce past that still linger on the sides of buildings.

Mr. Jump's pictures connect up with a show at Williamsburg's other most memorable-looking art space, **HOLLAND TUNNEL ART PROJECTS**, which is a potting shed behind the home of its Dutch-born director, Paulien Lethen. For "Williamsburg 2000," Ms. Lethen supplied a dozen artists — herself included — with disposable cameras and asked them to photograph the neighborhood. They did so, artfully, focusing on industrial remains, street art and — repeatedly — the great unbroken expanses of local sky. This simple idea has resulted in a lovely documentary gesture, which Ms. Lethen plans to repeat in 2005.



The New York Times