

22 September 2003

contact:

Diversity Abounds in Castleberry Hill Lofts

Discover what treasure lies behind the bricks during the second annual Castleberry Hill Loft Tour on Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 11 & 12, 2003. From “the ultimate bachelor pad” to kid-friendly homes, from informal bohemian utilitarianism to price-is-no-object grandeur, from owner-occupied dwelling to rented unit, from a hidden entrance at the edge of the railroad tracks to soaring views of the skyline, this year’s Tour is a showcase full of unique gems. Bill Bounds, co-chair of the organizing committee, is tremendously pleased with the offering. “Last year, we had an excellent group of lofts on the Tour, but this year, the selection committee has significantly raised the bar. I can’t wait to see the response.” The actual working studios of artists Carolyn Carr and Michael Gibson and photographer Cliff Sparkman will also be on view. This year’s lofts – ranging in size from 1500 to 4000+ square feet – truly demonstrate the amazing diversity of the people and properties of Castleberry Hill.

Featured on the 2003 Tour is the home of Steve MacNeil and Walt Bilinski, owners of No Más Productions, who purchased the Aristocrat Ice Cream warehouse that was used as Justine’s Café during the 1996 Olympics. The main living quarters are decorated with a collection of imported hand-crafted artisan products, creating a warm and refreshing juxtaposition to the industrial backdrop of the over-80-year-old brick structure. [Photos available upon request.] MacNeil and Bilinski currently use the adjacent 15,000 sq ft building to warehouse furniture for their store, although plans are underway for turning it into a collection of retail and restaurant spaces. “The railroad spur is really what this area has to offer, and that is the reason these warehouses are here to begin with,” explains MacNeil. “We’re doing our little share to help kick this area into a thriving retail pocket. The combination of live/work is a dream that we have satisfied for ourselves and hope to provide for others.” The architectural model and renderings for the project will be on display.

Area businesses, including restaurants, will be open during the Tour, and exhibition booths will be set up outside the No Más warehouse. Visitors can attend open houses at properties for sale and lease as well. Skot Foreman Fine Art (*M.C. Escher: His Life and Work*; www.skotforeman.com), 3TEN Haustudio (*Art of the Craft: Custom Mission Furniture in the Style of Stickley, Roycroft & Limbert*; www.haustudio.com), and Ty Stokes Gallery (*Lloyd*

Benjamin: New Work, Atlanta; www.tystokes.com) invite tour-goers to linger in the neighborhood to attend receptions for their exhibitions on Saturday evening.

Tour hours are 11:00 am–5:00 pm on Saturday and 12 noon–5:00 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 per person on the days of the Tour. \$12 advance tickets are available on-line at www.myArtsCard.com (additional discount for ArtsCard members). **Free parking** is provided courtesy of Fulton Supply Company. Castleberry Hill is a short walk from the Georgia Dome/Philips MARTA station. The historic neighborhood is located on the southwestern edge of Downtown, just south of the Centennial Olympic Park, the CNN Center, Philips Arena, Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center.

Major sponsors of this year's Tour are No Más Productions, Miller-Gallman Developers, and Centennial Station. The fund-raising event is organized by the Castleberry Hill Neighborhood Association.

For more information, please visit www.castleberryhill.org.