‘The Cat Show’ Exhibit and Adoption Event
by Lori Greenberg

Come for the art. Take home a cat.

“The Cat Show,” which opens at the White Columns gallery this week, will feature work by over 50 artists accompanying a “Cats In Residence” adoption program.

Curated by Lower East Side resident and Artforum contributing editor, writer, and artist Rhonda Lieberman, the show intends to raise awareness of the plight of stray cats by putting felines in a unique habitat, causing the gallery goer to contemplate animal adoption in a completely new way.

Lieberman has been working on this concept for 14 years. The idea came to her after seeing the overwhelming population of stray cats in NYC. She was ahead of her time, but the idea stuck with her. It took a while to find the right fit and to make it happen.

East Village animal rescue group Social Tees is partnering with Lieberman to provide the homeless felines for the “Cats In Residence” adoption days on June 14 – 15 and July 19 – 20. On those dates, the “purr-formance artists” will be cavorting in the gallery on a specially designed “pussy playground,” created by architects Gia Wolff and Freecell.

Along with curating the exhibit of artworks by the likes of Matthew Barney, Elizabeth Peyton, Richard Prince and Andy Warhol, Lieberman has been having a lot of fun with the cat theme. The kitty adoptees have been given some clever art world names (noms de chat?) including Frida Kahloco, Bruce Meowman, Meowrina Abramovic, Alex Katz and Claws Oldenburg.

The Cat Show kicks off this Friday, June 14th and runs until July 27th. Please note that the majority of cats who are up for adoption will be in attendance on June 14 – 15, and again on July 19 – 20. The White Columns Gallery is at 320 West 13th Street.