

JAVELIN AT CLOCKTOWER GALLERY

BY: NICK COPE

Most WILD superfans will remember the feature of Brooklyn-based dynamic duo Javelin, which graced the pages of our first issue, The Hero Issue. Right around the time of the interview Javelin signed to David Byrne's Luaka Bop label and have since had a terrific run, having toured with Yeasayer, Warpaint, Matt & Kim, and Girl Talk. However, their most recent adventures have taken them into exciting uncharted waters. It all began when Tom and George were touring the Southwest and began seeing roadside signs for US Parks, *Crater of Diamonds State Park* for one. These strange names all started to look like song titles and they then decided it would be fun to make a concept album about the American West, hearkening back to the creative song-writing of Ennio Morricone. The project became more interesting when Javelin put their heads together with brilliant experimental director and artist Mike Anderson and decided to turn the album into the inspiration and soundtrack for an actual Western Silent-Film Epic called *Canyon Candy*. Shot entirely in a Brooklyn warehouse on green screen, the film is overwhelmingly rich and beautiful, reminiscent of the amazing Thai film *Tears of the Black Tiger*, another low-budget masterpiece. It tracks the story of the lone survivor of a brutal massacre, a young girl who is then plunged into hallucinatory chase through a day and night in the American Southwest. The film stars ex-These Are Powers bassist Pat Noecker who is the gunslinging protagonist, Anderson's muse Johanna Hickey as the lead lady, and Joe Heffernan who plays a menacing villain. The film was recently hosted on Stereogum and is available for purchase on Luaka Bop's site.



That is not the end of our story. Javelin and Mike Anderson have taken their project to Clocktower Gallery, the incredible non-profit art center and exhibition space in TriBeCa founded by Alanna Heiss who later created P.S.1 and served as it's director for over 30 years. Alanna served as curator of the *Canyon Candy* exhibition, which exists as a site-specific installation and immersive soundscape bringing to life the Western-themed film of the same name. Beginning with an entrance through a wind-washed cabin, followed by a winding walk in the canyon's termite hills and cactus fields, visitors will encounter coyotes, campsites, big sky, and vignette sequences from the film. All paths lead to a saloon-style theater space featuring the full Canyon Candy film - the ideal cowboy den after a long walk through the canyon, complete with strawbale seating, gingham tablecloths, and sarsaparilla. For the exhibition, Javelin has created a multi-channel surround-sound environment embedded in Anderson's set, both recreating the film's ambience and animating the canyon's vistas through sound effects including crickets, howling winds, and yodeling. It is a wonderful exhibition and It is also a fabulous opportunity to experience Clocktower Gallery itself, an amazing residency and exhibition that has recently re-launched under the banner Art On Air, which is the evolution of the first art media radio station also founded by Alanna Heiss. There is just so much to see here, I highly recommend it to any and all WILD readers who dare. [108 Leonard Street tues-fri, noon-5pm, through Jan 31]

