

Take The
Edge Off

FREE AND COMPULSORY (MARYBETH WARD)



the american living room

by Justin Hess

The **HERE Arts Center** will be presenting “**The American Living Room**,” an emerging art festival, from **July 26-Sept. 2**. That’s 38 days of performance art, media collision, puppetry (for real), dancing and music. It sounds like a lot to take, but they make it easier by letting you sit on couches while you watch.

The American Living Room (TALR, if you like) has been running for 18 years and holds the distinction of being both the first and the longest running festival of its kind. Each year the award-winning HERE Arts Center showcases the newest works of their emerging artists in a week-long extravaganza that sets itself apart from other art organizations’ extravaganzas, most obviously by providing spectators with comfy chairs and couches (and booze,

allegedly). While enjoying the soft, fluffy cushions and maybe some suds, attendees are treated to one of a variety of works that they probably would not see if they just stayed in their actual living room.

This year’s festival features *Caged*, a short animation by Tim Sweeney that runs throughout the festival, and more than 20 other productions that will show for two days each. These works proudly emerge from the unconventional side of the artistic world and can be expected to intrigue and inspire with art forms that are both familiar and esoteric, often at the same time.

The HERE Arts Center is located at 145 Sixth Ave. between Spring and Broome. All shows start at 8:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$15, or \$10 if you’re a donor. Visit here.org for a full schedule of events and other information.