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Connersmith gallery moves to Shaw

Maura Judkis
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As if we needed any more proof that Shaw is rapidly becoming the center of D.C.'s social and creative universe, one of D.C.'s finest art galleries announced today that it has purchased a building at 1013 O St. NW. Connersmith, whose founders, Leigh Conner and Jamie Smith, are also the duo behind the (e)merge art fair, will reopen at their new location in early 2016.



Gallery visitors mingle after attending a panel discussion about the relationships between arts collectors, galleries and artists at the former Connersmith gallery. (Photo by ASTRID RIECKEN For The Washington Post)

Last year, Connersmith sold its H Street gallery to the Fringe Festival, which will be presented for the first time in that space this July. Before that, when the gallery was known as Conner Contemporary, it had operated out of a Dupont Circle space. Connersmith's new headquarters will serve as the offices for the gallery and for (e)merge, which is hosted by the Capitol Skyline Hotel each October. In a press release, Conner called the building "An ideal space where collectors and curators will experience our artists' works."

Add the gallery to the list of major Shaw openings expected in the next year. It will follow new restaurants and retail at the Shay (Warby Parker eyewear, the first D.C. restaurant from chef Tim Ma), and Atlantic Plumbing (A second Daikaya, a pizza joint from the owners of Lincoln). Also opening in the latter: Several artist studios, and the headquarters of the Washington Project for the Arts, which has finally found a home after eight moves in its nearly 40-year history.