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Dears,

It's here! The New York Times [broke the news](#) this morning! We're thrilled to announce the details of our six-week free festival of artist-led participatory walks, talks and ways throughout New York City. July 7th thru August 18th. This email's got everything you need to know. Get your registration on now cuz capacity is limited and it's gonna fill up quick!

Walks by:

Kate Colby & Todd Shalom
Karen Finley & Violet Overn
Wayne Koestenbaum
Mimi Lien
Erin Markey
Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith

Talks by:

Julian & Leon Fleisher
Caleb Hammons
Freddie, Kate & Vin Scelsa
Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith

Ways by:

K.J. Holmes
Vadis Turner
Ben Weber
Stephen Winter

Benefit at The Wild Project in the East Village on Thursday, July 30th with Performers Including Ramzi Awn and Karen Finley

Presenting Partners: deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum, The Flea Theater, Gibney Dance, The Invisible Dog Art Center, JACK, Jack Geary Contemporary, The Poetry Project, Pratt Institute MFA in Writing, Sunview Luncheonette, UnionDocs and The Wild Project.

Blake Zidell & Associates is our publicist and **Hyperallergic** is our media partner.

Asad Pervaiz designed the festival identity.

WAKS



“Making Marks” by Wayne Koestenbaum

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/making-marks>

*Quips and players, seeming to vend astringency off-hours,
celebrate diced excesses and sardonic, mixing pleasures,
as if proximity were staring at the margin of a plea...*

--Frank O'Hara

We'll begin our walk at 441 East Ninth, right where Frank O'Hara lived when he wrote this monumental poem "Second Avenue."

While walking, participants will write and draw and talk and accumulate -- mixing pleasures and celebrating excess. We'll experiment by making spontaneous records of our ruminations and observations, whether with pencil, pen, stick, stone, scrap, spit, or other found (and offered) substances. Our goal: to liberate and unhouse our repertoires of verbal and visual markmaking. In the process, we'll compose a document (or a bagful of documents) to take home afterward and keep as a record of our adventure.

This walk holds 12 people and is presented in partnership with the [Poetry Project](#).

Image credit:

Wayne Koestenbaum; *Lunar Bacchanal*; 2014

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, July 7, 2015; 7:00pm

Thursday, July 9, 2015; 7:00pm

Thursday, July 16, 2015; 7:00pm

Starting Point: 441 East 9th Street; Manhattan

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

Ages: 18+

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"Duly Noted" by Kate Colby & Todd Shalom

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/duly-noted>

Join poet Kate Colby and walk artist Todd Shalom as they lead participants on a walk that counter-informs and performs deCordova. Considering local colonial and intellectual history as frames and precedents for the ongoing evolution of the museum, participants work together to conjure up and poetically respond to the museum's site and natural surroundings. Techniques from poetry, sound, and performance are used to facilitate group-made responses to the Park.

This walk holds 12 people and is co-presented by [deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum](#) as part of the exhibition, "Walking Sculpture 1967–2015." "Duly Noted" will be held in English but Todd also speaks Spanish.

Dates/Times:

Saturday, July 18, 2015; 2:00pm

Saturday, July 18, 2015; 5:00pm

Starting Point: 51 Sandy Pond Road; Lincoln, MA 01773; This walk will meet outside the front entrance to the museum. [we snuck in one walk that's not in New York. Bostonites, c'mon to Lincoln for this one.]

Duration: 70 minutes

Admission: Free with park admission or Membership

All ages

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“Sea Glass Mermaid” by Karen Finley & Violet Overn

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/sea-glass-mermaid>

This walk by mother-daughter duo, Karen Finley and Violet Overn, aims to escape time and the city.

“Walking along the shore, we forget where and when we are. Washed up sea glass, fifty year-old notes in bottles, leather shoe soles and rusty toys. The city wasn’t always hundred story skyscrapers and gum-stained sidewalks. In Dead Horse Bay, we are taken into a different history deep in the heart of the Rockaways, hidden under nature’s cove to celebrate the breeze and the roving sun. Join us to create living tableaus from nature’s flora and fauna and the discarded objects the sea has returned. Perhaps we’ll make mobile chimes or a castle of sand and shells. Let’s be castaways for a day.” KF & VO

This walk holds 18 people and is co-presented with [The Flea Theater](#).

Photo credit: Paul Nebenzahl

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, July 21, 2015; 6:30pm

Friday, July 24, 2015; 6:30pm

Starting Point: This walk will meet at the "Flatbush Ave/Ryan Visitors Center" bus stop on the Q35 bus near Dead Horse Bay, Brooklyn. Please plan your travel time accordingly, as the walk will start promptly at 6:30pm.

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

Ages: 16+

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“DADDY WARBUCKS, PLEASE ADOPT ME (A.K.A. THE ANNIE TOUR!)” by Erin Markey

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/daddy-warbucks-please-adopt-me-aka-annie-tour>

One moves to New York with its myth in mind. She is a celebrity and we know her better than she knows us. We have seen her on film, tv and in books. She is deeply integrated into our memories and fantasies of ourselves, though we have never actually been inside of her. For some of us, nothing symbolizes that yearning to bite the Big Apple more than the 1982 film, *Annie*.

Join *Annie*'s biggest fan(nie) and legendary tour guide, Erin Markey, in her final set of *Annie* tours. The tour will visit various “filming locations” from the epic film where walk participants will learn its making-of history at real New York City sites. Erin will lead the group as we sing along to its hit film score as we walk.

This walk holds 12 people.

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, July 28, 2015; 7:00pm

Thursday, August 6, 2015; 7:00pm

Tuesday, August 18, 2015; 7:00pm

Starting Point: 198 Bedford Avenue; Brooklyn (in front of New York Muffins)

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

All ages

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“Memory Palace” by Mimi Lien

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/memory-palace>

Hotels and other transient spaces are populated by multitudes of people passing through them over the years. What kinds of traces do they leave? Participants will be led by set designer Mimi Lien to experience the notion of architecture as repository/geography for memory and latent narrative. The group will walk through a sequence of interior spaces in which sensory input such as smell, sound, light, and touch are deployed, conjuring a specific conflation of place and event. Participants will record their journey, resulting in the construction of a ‘memory palace.’

This walk holds 9 people and is presented in partnership with [JACK](#).

Dates/Times:

Friday, August 7, 2015; 7:00pm

Saturday, August 8, 2015; 7:00pm

Saturday, August 15, 2015; 7:00pm

Starting Point: W. 32nd Street and 7th Avenue (Northeast corner); Manhattan

Duration: 75 minutes

Admission: Free

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“Ideally” by Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/ideally>

Ideally, we’ll walk on water.

Ideally, this walk will reverse climate change.

Ideally, we’ll pass a bill and make it law.

Ideally, they will be accepting.

Ideally, I’ll fall in love with someone on this walk.

Ideally, you’ll cook for me.

Ideally, I’ll take the roller coaster ride of my life.

For admission to this walk, please complete this phrase, “Ideally…” in the comments section of the registration form. The comments section will appear upon checkout.

Ideally, this walk will exceed your expectations.

Ideally holds 10 people and will be held in English, but Todd also speaks Spanish.

Dates/Times:

Wednesday, August 5, 2015; 6:00pm

This walk will occur sometime between 6pm–10pm.

Starting Point: The starting point will be somewhere within the five boroughs of New York City. Those who register for the walk with their completed phrase will be notified of the exact time and starting location for the walk.

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

Ages: 16+

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TALKS

This year's Elastic City talks have set out to undo the hierarchy of conventional artist talks in order to better situate the audience inside of an artist's work. The talks have been developed with each artist through Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith's Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space residency. Singer-producer **Julian Fleisher** and his father, the legendary pianist **Leon Fleisher**; performance curator and producer **Caleb Hammons**; free-form radio **DJ Vin Scelsa**, his novelist daughter **Kate Scelsa**, and supportive mother-wife **Freddie Scelsa**; and **Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith** will lead talks, each lasting approximately 60-90 minutes.



“Other Pursuits” by Caleb Hammons

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/other-pursuits>

Twenty million adult Americans make art. Only two million earn their primary income from their practice. Should anyone in America expect to make a living as an artist? Talk participants will be asked to reveal how they identify on the artistic spectrum. This group of amateur, professional and non-artists will question the lines between these identities as they relate to creative expression. Is the appraisal based on a matter of skill, commercialism, dedication, self-identification and/or training?

Who gets to be an artist? And who decides which are professionals? Join Caleb Hammons in this open interrogation.

"Other Pursuits" holds 50 people and is co-presented by [The Invisible Dog Art Center](#).

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 4; 2015; 7:00pm

Location: 51 Bergen Street; Brooklyn. *Other Pursuits* will meet inside The Invisible Dog Art Center.

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

All ages

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“The Scelsas” by Freddie, Kate and Vin Scelsa

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/scelsas>

Legendary free-form radio DJ Vin Scelsa just played his last song after 48 years on the radio. Daughter Kate Scelsa is putting the finishing touches on her first book, a young adult novel to be published this fall. Freddie Scelsa is the mother, wife and self-proclaimed “professional audience member” who provides moral support for them both.

Join The Scelsas for an intimate, spirited talk at The Sunview Luncheonette during this uniquely transitional moment in their lives.

This talk holds 40 people and is presented in partnership with [Sunview Luncheonette](#).

Date/Time: Sunday, August 9, 2015; 4:00pm

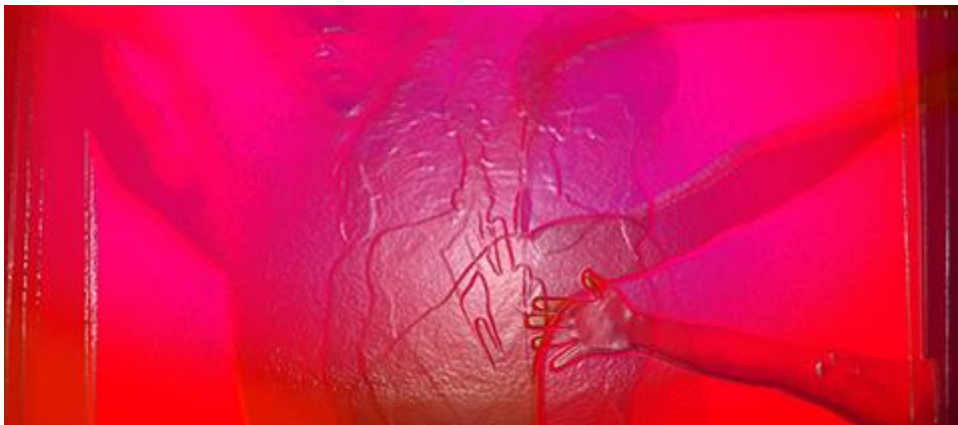
Location: 221 Nassau Ave; Brooklyn

Duration: 60 minutes

Admission: Free

All ages

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“Between Us” by Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/between-us>

The traditional artist talk is stale and hierarchical, with the artist on a pedestal and the audience as passive recipients. As much as Niegel would love to get heady on theoretical frames and Todd yearns to yap poetic about his Instagram photos, they have decided to take the artist talk in another direction. Talking with, not at. Inviting you along. Over and through the rainbow.

In this talk, participants will grapple with recurring themes from Niegel & Todd's signature prompts: shedding protective layers (*Selfies*); granting permission to touch and be touched (*Dream State of Affairs*); addressing the political through the sculpting of bodies (*Monumental Walk* and *Favorites*); and constructing a language all one's own (*so you're one of them now*).

This talk holds 24 people and is co-presented with [Pratt Institute MFA in Writing](#). It will be held in English but Todd also speaks Spanish.

"Between Us" was developed as part of [Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's](#) Process Space program.

Image credit: Niegel Smith

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13, 2015; 7:00pm

Location: 328 Dekalb Avenue; Brooklyn. This talk will meet outside Mike's Diner at 328 Dekalb Avenue in Brooklyn and then head in to campus at Pratt Institute.

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

Ages: 16+

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"The Man I Love" by Julian & Leon Fleisher

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/man-i-love>

When not mashing together the standard and contemporary American songbooks, Julian Fleisher can often be found on the lecture circuit laughing it up with his father—the legendary pianist Leon Fleisher. Customarily, Julian leads audiences on a tour of his father's extraordinary musical consciousness and career. For this talk, they flip the script. No chatting about the profound importance of The Composer's intent and the tradition of German piano music. Tonight, Julian brings his pops to popular music as they reimagine the moments and melodies that bridge father and son. In short, dad's downtown, there's a piano and Julian's making arrangements.

"The Man I Love" holds 50 people.

Date/Time: Monday, August 17, 2015; 7:00pm

Location: To be announced

Admission: Free

All ages

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Ways



“Visible Acoustics” by K.J. Holmes

<http://www.elastic-city.org/ways/visible-acoustics>

Sound is vibration. It is considered to be an aural experience, though we encounter it through all of our senses. This vibration underlies all of our movement yet it is primarily invisible. Join dance artist K.J. Holmes in this night+day way that will explore making these vibrations more visible by bringing out our shared evolutionary movement patterns, such as sitting, crawling, standing and walking. Additionally, participants will translate their perception of light into movement and sound as we respond to various locations in Prospect Park.

This way holds 12 people and is presented in partnership with [Gibney Dance](#).

Please note that “Visible Acoustics” is a two-session way. We ask those who sign up to please attend both consecutive sessions (Saturday, July 11th at 6 a.m. and Sunday, July 12th at 10 p.m.), as night two will build on day one.

Date/Time: Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 6:00 a.m. and Sunday, July 12, 2015 at 10 p.m.

Meeting Point: Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road; Brooklyn (At the entrance to Prospect Park)

Duration: 2 hours/day; 2 days total

Admission: Free

Ages: 16+

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“PROPAGANZA!” by Ben Weber

<http://www.elastic-city.org/ways/propaganza>

Like the actor, singer, dancer or mime, the comedian's body is their instrument. And with it, they play with the expectations of the audience. But when a comedian chooses to be a "prop comic," expanding their performance toolkit to include objects, they are often dismissed, sneered at, and excluded from the canon of comedy greats.

If great comedic material comes from our shared experience and the absurdity of everyday life, why not mine the physical stuff around us to create killer comedy gold? In this way for all ages, we will use techniques from improvisation, clown, sculpture, and performance art to greet the hullabaloo of Times Square and create original prop comedy routines.

This way holds 15 people and will be held in English but Ben also speaks French.

Dates/Times:

Sunday, July 12, 2015; 11:00am

Sunday, July 19, 2015; 11:00am

Meeting Point: This way will meet at the top of the grand staircase in front of The New Victory Theater: 209 W. 42nd Street in Manhattan.

Duration: 90 minutes

Admission: Free

All ages

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“Make It Fly” by Stephen Winter

<http://www.elastic-city.org/ways/make-it-fly>

For "Make It Fly," filmmaker Stephen Winter compresses his Intensive Film Workshop into four hours (2 hours/day over two Saturdays). Participants are asked to bring a short idea, script or storyboard for a 5-minute short film. Stephen will help perfect your pitch, brainstorm your artistry, inspire your industriousness and discuss production feasibility as the group moves from the Elastic City headquarters outside to Prospect Park.

Those who choose to film in Prospect Park can start filming on Saturday, July 25th with a small crew. If you want to work on your film during the week, please have it ready for Saturday, August 1st. On August 1st, we'll watch each film, critique and celebrate what we've done.

This way holds 12 people and is presented in partnership with [UnionDocs](#).

Please note that “Make It Fly” is a two-session way. We ask those who sign up to please attend both consecutive sessions (Saturday, July 25th from 2–4pm. and Saturday, August 1st from 2–4pm) as day two will build on day one.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Participation in this way is by application and is limited to 12 people. If you would like to participate, please do not sign-up via the "FREE" button on the website. Instead, please send a one-paragraph email to info@elastic-city.org that explains why you are bringing your potential film project to this intensive workshop. Please let us know in your paragraph if you will need a crew. Upon submitting this information, we will notify you about admission.

Date/Time: Saturday, July 25, 2015 from 2:00p.m.–4:00p.m. and Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 2:00p.m.–4:00p.m.

Meeting Point: 50 Lefferts Avenue #3b; Brooklyn

Duration: 2 hours/day; 2 days total

Admission: Free

Ages: 16+

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"Re-weavings" by Vadis Turner

<http://www.elastic-city.org/ways/re-weavings>

Prospect Park contains a thriving microcosm of urban culture coexisting with organic matter. In this two-morning way, join visual artist Vadis Turner to explore the possibilities of found materials to transform, disguise and/or reconfigure available objects. The group will activate unwanted scraps and use them to change our perception of mundane and overlooked parts of the park. Drawing on techniques from Vadis's mixed media paintings, unrelated elements will unite to become something new and separate from their original functions. Bottle caps can become stars trapped in a puddle. The trash cans can start to grow leaves. A dreamcatcher can be woven into a fence.

On day two, the group will construct a collaborative installation. Discussions around perception, disassociation and hybridity of what we see and create will conclude each session. No previous experience necessary.

"Re-weavings" is co-presented by [Jack Geary Contemporary](#).

"Re-weavings" is a two-morning way that holds 12 people. We ask those who sign up to please attend both consecutive mornings (Saturday, August 1st; 10am–12pm and Sunday, August 2nd; 10am–12pm) as day two will build on day one.

Date/Time: Saturday, August 1, 2015; 10:00a.m.–12:00p.m. and Sunday, August 2, 2015; 10:00am–12:00pm

Meeting Point: Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road; Brooklyn

Duration: 2 hours/day; 2 days total

Admission: Free

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Elastic City will host a benefit, Thursday, July 30, 7:30pm to 10:30pm, at [The Wild Project](#) (195 East 3rd Street) in the East Village. There will be performances by vocalist [Ramzi Awn](#) and performance artist [Karen Finley](#), playlist by free-form DJ [Vin Scelsa](#), portraits by [Santos Muñoz](#) and champagne cocktails by bartender [Tim Miner](#) of [Magic Touch Cocktails](#).

Tickets are now on sale at \$40/person at <http://elasticcity2015benefit.brownpapertickets.com/>

See you soon!

Love,
Todd

Todd Shalom
Director/Founder
[Elastic City](#)



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