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# ELASTIC

SEPT 26-OCT 7, 2014  
NEW YORK CITY

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# WALKS FESTIVAL

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# CITY

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Dears,

It's here! Our free walks festival! **September 26th to October 7th**. This consists of: **Eight new walks** by thoughtful and imaginative artists; a **first-ever series of four Talks** featuring pioneers of the walk form on Sunday, September 28th at **Pratt Institute**, co-presented by Pratt's new [MFA in Writing](#); and a **Closing Night Benefit Party** on Tuesday, October 7th from 7-10pm at [Jack Geary Contemporary](#) (185 Varick St) in SoHo. Details forthcoming on the party--I can tell you now that given what we're planning--well, I don't think anyone's ever tried this at a benefit before. If you go to [this link](#) and donate \$40/person, that'll pay for your ticket.

In addition to our amazing publicist [Blake Zidell](#), we've [Hyperallergic](#) as our media partner to help spread the walk/talk love! But let's make it easy on em--please help us along by posting and sharing (and Cher-ing) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) #ECwalksfest You can find any updates on our [blog](#).

# WALKS

**Participating Walk Artists: Karen Finley; Anthony Goicolea; Michel Groisman; Nisan Haymian; Amichai Lau-Lavie & Shawn Shafner; Sarah Schulman, Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith; Kristin Geneve Young**

**Partnering organizations: Pratt Institute's new MFA in Writing; Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP); Brooklyn Museum; Jack Geary Contemporary; Aerial Arts NYC and Lab/Shul**

**Foundation support: Asylum Arts & Foundation for Contemporary Arts**



**“Mandala: Reimagining Columbus Circle,” by Karen Finley**

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/mandala-reimagining-columbus-circle>

Think of Columbus Circle as a mandala – a circular intersection that connects the crossing of transportation, recreation, museum life, information age – all under the mantel of the Columbus monument, a symbol of conquest. The destruction and reuse of native pathways are taken for granted and forgotten with the not-so-subtle view of CNN as a backdrop for America’s news. On *Mandala: Reimagining Columbus Circle*, Karen Finley will lead participants as we question and consider the circular intersection and all of its complexities, challenges and possibilities. The group will be encouraged to generate their own creative responses that question urban forms today.

This walk holds 12 people and is co-presented with [Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation \(GSAPP\)](#).

Research Assistant: Caitlin Blanchfield

Photo: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division; Washington, D.C.

**Dates/Times**

- Friday, September 26, 2014; 12:00pm
- Saturday, September 27, 2014; 11:00am
- Saturday, September 27, 2014; 3:00pm

**Starting Point:** This walk will meet at the Columbus statue in the middle of Columbus Circle in Manhattan.

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Age:** 18+

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## **“Let It Go: A Tashlich Walk,” by Amichai Lau-Lavie & Shawn Shafner**

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/let-it-go-tashlich-walk>

Join ritualists Amichai Lau-Lavie and Shawn Shafner on a Judeo-Pagan walk in Manhattan during the first week of the Jewish New Year. Participants will radically revise Tashlich, the annual Jewish shedding ceremony, in which breadcrumbs are substituted for transgressions and thrown into a living body of water. The group will walk from Hell's Kitchen down to the river, pausing to cast away our private and public histories: discarding assumptions, handing over possessions and making room for change.

This walk holds 30 people and is presented in partnership with [Lab/Shul](#).

### **Dates/Times**

Friday, September 26, 2014; 3:00pm

Tuesday, September 30, 2014; 10:00pm

**Starting Point:** 325 W. 49th Street; Manhattan (This walk will meet in front of Starbucks. Please bring an item of clothing or household utensil that you'd like to get rid of.)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Age:** 13+

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## **“Downside Up,” by Kristin Geneve Young**

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

Gravity is a given. Its anchor is a constant force within constant spin. By changing our physical orientation in space, we may fundamentally upend, well, just about everything.

For *Downside Up*, Kristin Geneve Young will lead participants in challenging their senses of vision, equilibrium and proprioception. Balance tests, climbing exercises and aerial inversions will be used to focus the senses throughout the walk, inviting the group to respond to overlooked pockets of Midtown.

This walk holds 12 people and is presented in partnership with [Aerial Arts NYC](#).

### **Dates/Times**

Saturday, September 27, 2014; 5:00pm

Saturday, October 4, 2014; 5:00pm

**Starting Point:** 211 E 51st Street; Manhattan; Please wear snug-fitting workout clothes (think: yoga pants)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Age:** 16+

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### “Signature Walk,” by Todd Shalom

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

*Signature Walk* takes you through a selection of Elastic City's playful and poetic ways of experiencing the city. We might make monuments with our bodies in response to monuments in public space, craft visual poems from found objects, create songs using text from storefronts and so much more.

This walk holds 12 people.

#### Dates/Times

Monday, September 29, 2014; 10:00pm

Wednesday, October 1, 2014; 7:30pm

**Starting Point:** 51 Lincoln Road; Brooklyn (This walk will meet outside of Lincoln Park Tavern.)

**Duration:** 75 minutes

**Language:** The walk will be held in English but Todd also speaks Spanish.

**All ages**

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### “Twelve Grey Lemons,” by Nisan Haymain

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/twelve-grey-lemons>

A Persian grey lemon is debatably both and neither a fruit and a spice. Its vague status helps it easily cross through international borders.

For *Twelve Grey Lemons*, urbanist/artist Nisan Haymian will lead participants down personal paths that define the cultural Persian landscapes of New York, questioning concepts of urban immigration, hybrid identity, civic imagination and the politics of self. In this immersive walk, the group may delight in new ways of tasting familiar flavors while getting an inside scoop from local residents.

*Twelve Grey Lemons* holds 12 people and is made possible through the generous support of [Asylum Arts](#).

**Dates/Times**

Monday, September 29, 2014; 7:30pm

Wednesday, October 1, 2014; 7:30pm

**Starting Point:** 16 W. 8th Street; Manhattan (This walk will meet outside of Cafe Nadery)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**All ages**

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**“Dark Hour/Light Moment,” by Anthony Goicolea**

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/dark-hourlight-moment>

Nighttime changes our perception of things. It changes the way we think and feel as it casts inky shadows that morph surroundings into other worlds. Join Anthony Goicolea on an evening walk away from the city. No lights, no phones, no GPS. From there, Anthony will stage the group for the camera, as we play with light in the dark of the woods.

This walk holds 10 people and is co-presented with [Brooklyn Museum](#) as part of the "[Crossing Brooklyn](#)" exhibition.

Image: Anthony Goicolea | POPLAR TREES | © 2002 | 22 x 81 | Ed. 1- 9

**Date/Time:** Saturday, October 4, 2014; 6:30pm

**Starting Point:** The starting point will be revealed to participants upon sign-up. It will be near the Graham stop on the L train in Brooklyn.

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Age:** 13+

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**“Favorites,” by Sarah Schulman, Todd Shalom & Niegel Smith**

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

The beauty, class mix and historical depth of the West Village once inspired and produced political and artistic ideas for the world. Now it is defined by excess, simulacra and homogenization. *Favorites* by Sarah Schulman, Todd Shalom and Niegel Smith will engage participants in the generational class-clash in the West Village, uncovering, contrasting and performing its past and present. The walk will be enhanced by the memories and current realities of queer tenants, who will reveal their favorite places that are gone and their favorite places that remain.

*Favorites* holds 15 people and is co-presented with [Brooklyn Museum](#) as part of the ["Crossing Brooklyn"](#) exhibition.

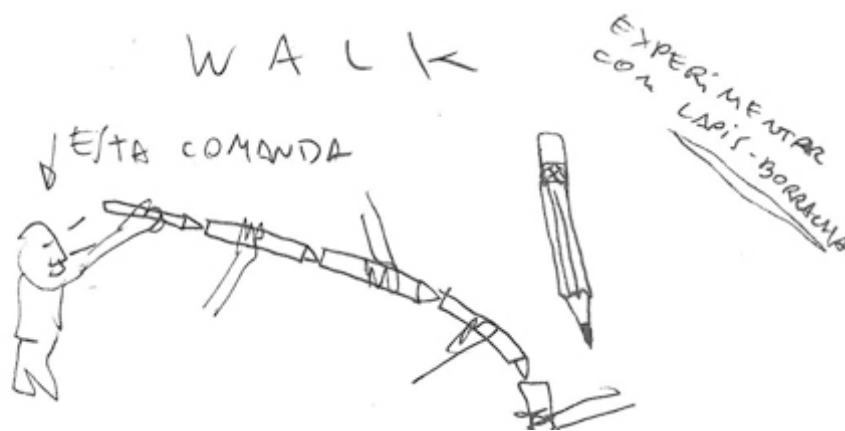
**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 5, 2014; 12:00pm

**Starting Point:** The southwest corner of West 12th Street and 8th Avenue in Manhattan

**Duration:** 2 hours

**All ages**

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**“Playing with Steps,” by Michel Groisman**

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

For *Playing with Steps*, participants will use unusual equipment devised by Michel Groisman to touch and be touched by the ground. And the ground can be anything: a pillow, a sheet of paper, a sound, the simple presence of another. Michel will lead the group in experimenting with different ways of walking—simultaneously outside and in, as every step outwards is a step inwards and vice-versa.

*Playing with Steps* holds 12 people and is open to all abilities.

*Note from Michel: When my wife was two months pregnant, I gradually lost my ability to walk. Actually, I could walk, but only backwards. I could run forward, but could not walk. Now I'm getting better, but I've felt this way for almost 2 years.*

**Dates/Times**

Sunday, October 5, 2014; 4:00pm  
Monday, October 6, 2014; 4:00pm

**Starting Point:** 33 E. 17th Street; Manhattan (This walk will meet in front of Barnes & Noble in Union Square.)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Language:** The walk will be held in English but Michel also speaks Portuguese.

**All ages**

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# TALKS

Since 2010, Elastic City has been working with artists to rigorously investigate and interrogate the participatory walk. Through this work, we have helped to pioneer a new genre within the performing arts. During the talks, moderators, panelists and participants will examine the participatory walk and its related forms while questioning its history, present and potential for the future.

In partnership with **Pratt Institute's new MFA in Writing**, Elastic City is thrilled to present **four talks** featuring renown visual and performance artists, curators, scholars and critics on **Sunday, September 28, 2014** at Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Place, Brooklyn) from 11am to 5:30pm.

Each talk will hold approximately 75 people and will last about 90 minutes.



Sunday, September 28, 2014

11:00am – 12:30pm: **A Genealogy of the Participatory Walk**

Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Place, Brooklyn)

<http://www.elastic-city.org/walks/genealogy-participatory-walk>

The junction of creative thoughts and walks has its western roots in Aristotelian philosophy, where the act of walking was directly related to constructive ideas and actions. One immense historical lap later, the Surrealists, the Situationists, artists working on soundwalks, walking tour guides and artists that have solo or collective walking practices have deepened the concept of creative ambulation. The four presenters will explain their walking practices in the context of their respective artistic and historical backgrounds, pinpointing the varying levels of participation and inspiration involved in their work, and where they think the walk form is moving.

Featuring: Matt Green; Jeffrey Hogrefe; Aseman Sabet (moderator); Andrea Williams and Moira Williams  
Click [here](#) to read bios.

Photo: Corine Lemieux

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Sunday, September 28, 2014

12:30pm – 2pm: **Politics of the Walk**

Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Place, Brooklyn)

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

This talk will question and explore the political implications of walking as a form of cultural production. How has the walk (wandering, strolling, getting lost) been figured as political resistance in previous eras? What types of engagement or resistances are made possible by singular or collective somatic movement in urban spaces? What new bodies and bodies of knowledge are made possible by—and necessitate—taking to the streets? What damaging ideologies can be overturned by bodies claiming public space? Does the increased interest in the walk as an art form articulate a necessary gesture of resistance against a speed-obsessed techno-capitalist machinery? To the disciplinary and bureaucratic regimes of urban planning? The talk will investigate these questions, and more, with lots of opportunity for dialogue and exchange with the audience.

Featuring: Christian Hawkey (moderator); Rachel Levitsky; Eve Mosher and Ryan Tracy  
Click [here](#) to read bios.

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Sunday, September 28, 2014



2:30pm – 4pm: **The Participatory Walk as a New Performative Framework**

Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Place, Brooklyn)

<https://www.elastic-city.org/walks/participatory-walk-new-performative-framework>

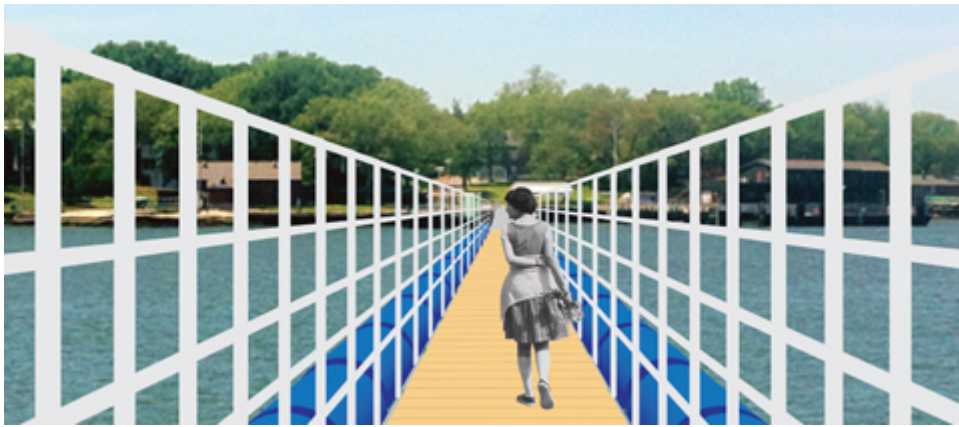
Artists who have led walks with Elastic City will talk about how their other work has been informed by leading a participatory walk. How does the walk function in harmony with and in contrast to the artists' primary discipline and their ways of working? What makes for a successful walk? Is this a viable form? *Hyperallergic* Senior Editor Jillian Steinhauer will provide context for the walk in relation to the growing trend of participation in art.

Featuring: Luciana Achugar; Miguel Gutierrez; Todd Shalom (moderator); Jillian Steinhauer and Pamela Z

Click [here](#) to read bios.

Photo: Caitlin Ruttle

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Sunday, September 28, 2014

4pm – 5:30pm: **Impossibility in Participatory Performance**

Pratt Institute's Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Place, Brooklyn)

<https://www.elastic-city.org/walks/impossibility-participatory-performance>

Ayesha Jordan, Nancy Nowacek and Veit Stratmann will join moderator Niegel Smith in a living room style conversation that questions the limits of what is possible in participatory performance. The artists will respond to real-time prompts and think on their feet as a way to expose their individual methodologies. Join us as we consider the motivations and intentions behind participatory performance and perhaps provide some inspiration for those who dare to dream big.

Featuring: Ayesha Jordan; Nancy Nowacek; Niegel Smith (moderator) and Veit Stratmann

Click [here](#) to read bios.

Image: Nancy Nowacek

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Again, please check our [blog](#), as we will keep adding to the list of things that'll happen at our **Closing Night Benefit Party**.

Thanks to all of the artists, organizational partners, foundations and the EC board for your support! Also, a big hats off to the spectacular graphic designer [Asad Pervaiz](#) for the festival identity and to our new emissary Keith Paul Medelis for joining us in the fray.

If you want suggestions on which walks/talks to join (ALL OF EM!), just email me.

See you soon!

Love,  
Todd

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

Foundation for  
Contemporary Arts



JACK GEARY



GSAPP

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

HYPERALLERGIC



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