

**News Release**  
Public Information  
Department

November 2003

**It's a European New Year's Celebration at the Brooklyn Museum of Art's Free *First Saturday* January 3, from 5 to 11 p.m.**

The Brooklyn Museum of Art's *First Saturday* celebrates the new year as well as European art in the installation *About Time: 700 Years of European Painting* on January 3, from 5 to 11 p.m. The program will include medieval street theater, classic European avant-garde films, gallery talks on European art, and free waltz and polka lessons. The evening will culminate with the fourth-annual **BMA Winter Ball** featuring the **Vienna Festival Orchestra** in the Beaux-Arts Court.

Since it was introduced five years ago, the **Brooklyn Museum of Art's *First Saturday*** series has become a phenomenal success, with thousands of visitors attending this **free** program of art and entertainment each month. All evening long, the Museum's café serves a wide selection of sandwiches, salads, and beverages, and a cash bar offers wine and beer. Parking is a flat rate of \$4 starting at 5 p.m. All other Saturdays the Museum closes at 6 p.m.

The party kicks off at 6 p.m. with the "**Festival of Fools,**" madcap medieval street theater by the performance troupe **Dzieci**, with music by the **Luminescent Orchestrui**. Dzieci recreates a medieval square in the Museum's Beaux-Art Court complete with magic, folk dances, games, and general merriment.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to paint their own Impressionist waterscape at the **Hands-On Art** family program. *Free tickets will be given out in the Education Gallery beginning at 6 p.m.*

## First Saturday

page 2

At 7 p.m., **Meredith Fluke**, a Ph.D. candidate in art history at Columbia University, will discuss the Museum's fourteenth century Italian Renaissance altarpieces. Fluke also works as an assistant museum educator at The Cloisters museum in upper Manhattan.

At 8 p.m., contemporary art critic **Brian Boucher** will take a fresh look at the BMA's collection of sculptures by Auguste Rodin. Also at 8 p.m., instructors from **Stepping Out Dance Studios** will give waltz and polka lessons in preparation for the ball.

The January 3 *First Saturday* film series at 9 p.m. will spotlight European avant-garde filmmakers such as **Hans Richter**, whose classic silent movie *Rhythm 21* (1921, 3 min.) will be screened.

The silent films will be accompanied by live music composed and performed by British-born jazz musicians Elliot and Brad Mason of the **Mason Brothers Band**. Born in Norwich, England, trumpeter Brad Mason and his brother Elliot, a trombonist, have performed with such heavyweights as Natalie Cole, Gary Burton, Joe Zawinul, Airto Moreira, and others.

Europhiles are encouraged to dress their noble best and attend the fourth annual BMA Winter Ball in the elegant Beaux-Art Court from 9 to 11 p.m. with music performed by the **Vienna Festival Orchestra**. Adding to the atmosphere will be the art in the installation *About Time: 700 Years of European Painting*. The Vienna Festival Orchestra was founded in 1998 by a small group of classical musicians who trained and performed together in Vienna. The musicians are all freelancers who now play in every type of venue from Broadway pits to opera orchestras.

Major support for *First Saturday* is provided by the Edward John Noble Foundation and Target Stores. *The New York Times* is media sponsor.

Minneapolis-based Target Stores, along with its parent company Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT), gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs.

**January 3 Schedule of Evening Programs**

- 6–7:30 p.m. **Performance:** Dzieci and the Luminescent Orchestrui present a medieval “Festival of Fools.”
- 6:30 p.m.– **Hands-On Art:** Paint your own Impressionist waterscape.  
8:30 *Free tickets are available beginning at 6 p.m. in the Education Gallery.*
- 7 p.m. **Curator Talk:** Meredith Fluke discusses the BMA’s collection of Renaissance altarpieces.
- 8 p.m. **Modern Voices:** Brian Boucher discusses the BMA’s collection of sculptures by Auguste Rodin.
- 8 p.m. **Free Dance Lessons:** Learn to waltz and polka from Stepping Out Dance Studios.
- 9 p.m. **Film and Live Music:** Classic European avant-garde films including *Rhythm 21* (Hans Richter, 1921, 3 min.), with original jazz scores by the Mason Brothers Band.
- 9–11 p.m. **BMA Winter Ball:** Waltz the night away to music by the Vienna Festival Orchestra.

**Media Contacts: (718) 638-5000, ext. 330, 331, 334, 354**

*www.brooklynmuseum.org*

# First Saturday

page 4

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Admission:

Contribution \$6; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$3. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

### Directions:

**Subway:** Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. **Bus:** B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

### Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.