



# Brooklyn Museum of Art

**News Release**  
Public Information  
Department

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**Brooklyn Museum of Art Invites All to Enjoy Free Admission,  
Free Events, and Extended Hours During Grand Opening Weekend,  
beginning Saturday, April 17**

Soon the imposing Beaux-Arts façade of the Brooklyn Museum will present a brand new face to Eastern Parkway, complete with an inviting three-tiered Entrance Pavilion of sheer gleaming glass, a dramatic stepped amphitheater, and a new Public Plaza.

In celebration of the unveiling of Brooklyn's grandest new "front stoop," the Museum will present *Open!*, a gala weekend. On Saturday, April 17, and Sunday, April 18, visitors will enjoy free admission, longer hours, and the choice of more than 60 free events—not to mention the opportunity to view four newly opened special exhibitions and the Museum's permanent galleries. The Museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 18. The *Open!* weekend is such a special occasion that the Museum is moving its popular *First Saturday* to the *third* Saturday of the month so that it can become part of the *Open!* festivities.

During *Open!*, visitors to the Museum will enjoy **music** as varied as Brooklyn itself, ranging from the brass sound of the Jackie Robinson Steppers Marching Band and the clarion call of the Women In Steel all-female steel pan band to salsa, jazz, classical, R&B, calypso, reggae, and soca. There will be Irish **dance**,

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## Schedule

page 2

a Chinese lion dance, and performances of modern dance, as well as demonstrations of Double-Dutch, step-dancing and the martial arts; **film** screenings of shorts by Brooklyn filmmakers and video artists; **storytelling** sessions devoted to the history of the Museum, Native American creation and coyote stories, and other tales; **workshops** inviting young people to make shaker music instruments, family-tree murals, and special Brooklyn Museum visors inspired by the redesigned front entrance; and **performances** that include an artist playing amazing hybrid instruments of his own creation such as a rubber-band trumpet, and a golf club sitar/tabla.

Additional events are held in conjunction with four special exhibitions: *Open House: Working in Brooklyn*, the most comprehensive look to date at the creative renaissance in the borough; *Living Legacies: The Arts of the Americas*, a completely new installation of the Museum's storied Hall of the Americas that features many North, Central, and South American objects that have not been on view for several decades; *Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective*, the first survey of the career of the late, great African American fashion designer; and *Alexis Rockman: Manifest Destiny*, an apocalyptic vision of Brooklyn 3,000 years in the future, as envisioned by artist Alexis Rockman and rendered in a mural commissioned by the Museum to celebrate the opening of its new Eastern Parkway entrance.

*Open!* is sponsored by Altria Group Inc.

Additional generous support from Forest City Ratner Companies, Independence Community Foundation, Tim Nye–The MAT Charitable Foundation, and Jane and David Walentas. *Open!* Family Programs sponsored by Target.

Major support for *First Saturdays* is provided by the Edward John Noble Foundation. Sponsored by Target. *The New York Times* is a media sponsor.

## Schedule

page 3

### **Schedule of *Open!* programs:**

#### **Saturday, April 17**

**11 a.m. and 2 p.m. *Arty Facts* (Sign Language-interpreted):** In “Spaces and Places,” children ages four to seven and their adult friends explore homes, buildings, rooms, and inside and outside spaces of the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays and then create art. *Arty Facts* meets by the double elevators promptly at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. No siblings younger than four or older than seven.

**12–5 p.m. Art Project:** Young people decorate their own Museum visitor headress, in which the old columns of the Museum façade mix with the new Entrance Pavilion.

**1–2 p.m. Music:** Brooklyn-based Zagnut Cirkus Orkestar plays lively brass music from the Balkans.

**1–2 p.m. Jazz:** Brooklyn native Miles Griffith sings jazz standards and original compositions in an adventurous, fiery style.

**2–3 p.m. Dance:** Students of the prizewinning O’Malley Irish Dance Academy of Marine Park perform traditional Irish dance.

**2–3 p.m. Jazz:** The Lascivious Biddies, a female quartet, blur the lines between jazz, pop, and cabaret with original tunes and unconventional arrangements of standards.

**3–4 p.m. Music:** Women In Steel of East Flatbush, the borough’s only all-female steel-pan band, plays soca, calypso, R&B, reggae, and jazz.

**3–4 p.m. Jazz:** Canadian-born, Brooklyn-based singer and alto saxophonist Sheila Cooper is, according to sax legend Lee Konitz, “a singer on her horn and with her voice, and that’s the best playing for me.” Cooper’s warm, elegant vocals, with savvy backing by her quartet, have wowed audiences at the city’s top venues, including the Blue Note, Birdland, and The Knitting Factory.

## Schedule

page 4

**4–5 p.m. Dance:** Young dancers from the Restoration Youth Arts Academy of Bedford-Stuyvesant perform tap, jazz, and Caribbean dance.

**4:30–7 p.m. Scavenger Hunt:** Search for clues to the hidden treasures within the Museum’s galleries and discover elements of intrigue you thought you’d never find in an institution of high culture. A correct answer to every question and riddle will result in a prize, to be accompanied by drinks and mingling in the outdoor Sculpture Garden.

**5–6 p.m. Performance:** The Jackie Robinson Steppers Marching Band will parade down Eastern Parkway from Grand Army Plaza to the Museum. One hundred students in grades 5 to 12 from central Brooklyn perform precision dance steps and music ranging from jazz to classical to R&B and hip-hop. This prize-winning band, featured in the acclaimed film *Our Song* (Jim McKay, 2001), performs in more than 70 parades and showcases around the country each year. The Steppers is a program of the Jackie Robinson Center for Physical Culture, which serves more than 5,000 Brooklyn children ages 8 to 18. This performance will also showcase students enrolled in the center’s martial arts, Double-Dutch, and step-dance programs.

**5–8 p.m. World Music:** DJ Sheldon Drake, lately a resident at Halcyon on Smith Street, spins dynamic, eclectic, and blatantly psychedelic sounds in the new Entrance Pavilion until 6:30 p.m. Then qpe (quiet personal electronics), who got his start at underground parties in Williamsburg, takes over to defy expectations of computer-generated music. Cash bar.

**5:30–6:30 p.m. Dance:** Members of the New York Chinese Cultural Center present a traditional Chinese lion dance to celebrate the new Entrance Pavilion.

**5:30 p.m. Architecture Talk:** Joan Darragh, the Museum’s Vice Director for Planning & Architecture, gives a talk on the design and construction of the new entrance and a short history of the Museum’s landmark building.

## Schedule

page 5

**6–7 p.m. Artist Dialogue:** Artist Alexis Rockman discusses his futuristic mural depicting a partially submerged Brooklyn with Marc Mayer, the Museum’s Deputy Director for Art, in the special exhibition *Alexis Rockman: Manifest Destiny*. A book signing in the Museum Shop follows this talk.

**6–8 p.m. Performance:** Christine Hill, proprietor of the Greenpoint-based Volksboutique and featured *Open House* artist, gives Museum visitors the opportunity to create a souvenir poster that quantifies their experience at *Open!* She will provide consultation concerning possible slogans and phrases that will be transferred onto an official Volksboutique poster using the Volksboutique Traveling Stamp Kit.

**6:30–8:30 p.m. Hands-On Art:** Kids plan, construct, and decorate an imaginary three-dimensional structure.

**7–8 p.m. Dance:** New works by a stellar line-up of Brooklyn choreographers including Jeanine Durning, Mark Jarecke, and Sara Smith.

**7–8 p.m. Curator Talk:** Charlotta Kotik, Chair of Contemporary Art, and Tumelo Mosaka, Assistant Curator, discuss *Open House: Working in Brooklyn*.

**7:30–8:30 p.m. Book Signing:** Artist Alexis Rockman signs copies of his new, richly illustrated monograph that provides an overview of his oeuvre.

**8–9 p.m. Dance:** Choreographer Jamel Gaines electrifies the Museum’s stage with his Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn.

**8–9 p.m. Modern Voices:** Architectural historian Matthew Postal discusses the Museum’s landmark McKim, Mead & White building and the new entrance.

**8–9 p.m. Free Dance Lesson:** Instructors from Stepping Out Dance Studios teach salsa.

## Schedule

page 6

**9–10 p.m. Film/Performance:** Williamsburg-based artist Brian Dewan presents his I-Can-See Filmstrips, which satirize those once-ubiquitous educational strips screened in countless school cafeterias from the 1920s to the 1970s.

**9–11 p.m. Dance Party:** Brooklyn's own Quimbombó blends Cuban rhythms such as són (the main ingredient in salsa), mambo, rumba, and chachachá with jazz and blues to create uniquely contagious dance music.

**10–11 p.m. Film:** The Brooklyn International Film Festival presents selected shorts by Brooklyn filmmakers, including *Mona Mon Amour* (Michael Sporn, 2002), *The Perpetual Life of Jim Albers* (Matt Goldman, 2002), *Sunny Feet* (Pete List, 2002), and *Into the Air's Memory* (Albert Yu, 2003).

### Sunday, April 18

**11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Arty Facts:** "Spaces and Places"

**12–5 p.m. Art Project:** Young people create their own Museum visitor headress and see how the old columns of the Museum façade mix with the new Entrance Pavilion.

**12:30–2:30 p.m. Art-Making Workshop:** In conjunction with *Open House: Working in Brooklyn*, three Brooklyn artists lead hands-on art-making. Marc Lepson shows how to make colorful collography prints from workshop participants' own collages using paper, glue, ink, and scissors; Sandra Bell draws on her long family tradition of constructing masquerade and carnival costumes in Trinidad and Tobago to teach participants how to make shaker music instruments from scratch; and Dr. Lorenzo Pace, author and illustrator of *Jalani and the Lock*, a children's book about the Middle Passage, will lead a collaborative art project in which participants help create a mural of family trees. These three workshops are for ages 6 and up and participation is on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation is limited. Visitors may pick up timed tickets in the third-floor Beaux-Arts Court beginning at 11:30 a.m.

## Schedule

page 7

**1–2 p.m. Curator Talk:** Nancy Rosoff, Curator and Chair of the Arts of the Americas, discusses the reinstallation of the Hall of the Americas.

**1–2 p.m. Gallery Talk:** Joe Amrhein, an artist as well as the owner and director of the Pierogi 2000 gallery in Williamsburg, discusses the state of art in Brooklyn.

**2 p.m. Curator Talk:** Guest Curator Thelma Golden discusses *Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective*.

**3–4 p.m. Stories & Art:** Christine Campbell tells the story of the history of the Museum and its collections, especially the Egyptian art collection, for ages 5 and up.

**3–4 p.m. Curator Talk:** Susan Kennedy Zeller, Assistant Curator of the Arts of the Americas, discusses the reinstallation of the Hall of the Americas.

**3-4 p.m. Performance:** Ken Butler, an artist and musician who builds and plays hybrid instruments, will perform on some of his creations, including a rubber-band trumpet, golf club sitar/tabla, and snow shovel. Other of his creations can be found in the special exhibition Open House: Working in Brooklyn.

**3–5 p.m. Concert: *Music Off the Walls*.** Musicians of the Brooklyn Philharmonic tune in to the borough’s many vibes, playing works by Brooklyn composers, from Pulitzer Prize winners to upstarts. This concert will be preceded by a free 2 p.m. gallery talk in the special exhibition Open House: Working in Brooklyn.

**4–5 p.m. Stories & Art:** Leaf Arrow Storytellers Donna Couteau Cross and Joe Cross present coyote tales, creation stories, and other Native American folklore for ages 5 and up in the Hall of Americas.

**4:15–4:45 p.m. Performance:** Brooklyn visual artist Matt Freedman will draw on the “Lightning Sketch” tradition of vaudeville halls as he creates complex, evolving drawings while telling related stories for ages 13 and above.

## Schedule

page 8

**4:30–5:30 p.m. Dance:** Melding Eastern spiritual philosophy with Western dance technique, Murray Spalding Movement Arts presents MANDALAS, ethereal dances created by intricate variations and kaleidoscopic changes in movement and direction.

## Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition

Award-winning works of art by teenage students from all over the New York metropolitan area, including works selected for national competition, will be on view during *Open!* weekend in the Education Gallery.

## Information

Unless otherwise noted, all *Open!* programs are free.

The public may call (718) 638-5000 for general information and for detailed directions to the Museum. TTY: (718) 399-8440. Or, call (718) 501-6372, 3, or 4. Visit the Museum web site at [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org).

## 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.