

Press Release



January 2008

Brooklyn Museum Offers Free Family Programs in February with Events Ranging from Art-Making Classes to English Sword Dancing

English Sword Ale

Half Moon Sword of New York City and thirteen other English folk dance groups from around the country present an afternoon of English sword dancing on **Sunday, February 15, at 2:30 p.m.** These dances were traditionally celebrated at winter "ales" in the farming and coal-mining regions of northern England. The dancers will perform old long-sword dances from North England and Scotland and newer rapper dances performed with double-handled swords to Irish jigs.

Arty Facts

Arty Facts, an art-making class for *children age four to seven* with an adult companion, invites families to explore works of art, enjoy a family gallery activity, and make art in each ninety-minute class. February's classes feature the many different ways artists are inspired by bodies and faces. Participants will visit the Museum's permanent collection and will then make an art project related to the bodies and faces theme. *Arty Facts* takes place every *Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.* and offers a different program each day.

Target First Saturdays: Get on the Black List

On Saturday, February 7, from 5 to 11 p.m., the Brooklyn Museum presents a free night of music, dance, and art-making classes in celebration of Black History Month and the special exhibition *The Black List Project*. Family-friendly highlights include an animated conversation with choreographer/dancer Bill T. Jones and writer Elvis Mitchell, the iconic film **Lackawanna Blues**, and selections from DJs Spinna and **Rich Medina** in a James Brown vs. Fela Kuti tribute.

Gallery Talks by Student Guides

The Brooklyn Museum's Student Guides share their fresh perspectives with Museum visitors on free, conversational tours on *Saturdays at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.*

Family-Friendly Special Exhibitions

Unearthing the Truth: Egypt's Pagan and Coptic Sculpture

February 13–May 10, 2009. This small exhibition of thirty works from the Brooklyn Museum's permanent collection of Late Antique stone sculptures includes several examples of reworked or repainted works and some that appear to be modern forgeries. The ancient sculptures were made for use in pagan and Christian cemeteries and in Christian churches and monasteries, and include both pagan and Christian scenes and symbols.

Brooklyn Museum

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Coptic sculpture was little known when it began to appear on the market shortly after World War II and into the 1960s and 1970s, when a number of pieces were acquired by the Brooklyn Museum. Gradually some scholars began to realize that the examples now in museums in both Europe and the United States included many modern imposters, but a comprehensive study has yet to be undertaken. For a review of the Brooklyn Museum's pieces, Curator of Egyptian Art Edna R. Russmann joined a number of outside authorities on Coptic art and on the sources of Egyptian stone. Much of that work is still ongoing. This exhibition focuses on the work done so far, and especially on the stylistic characteristics of the works, both ancient and modern.

The Black List Project: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders and Elvis Mitchell

Through March 29, 2009. This exhibition of twenty-five portraits by internationally renowned photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders is a documentary project that explores being Black in America. Sanders also directed a series of filmed interviews conducted by noted film critic Elvis Mitchell that will be presented along with the photographs. Serena Williams, Chris Rock, Colin Powell, Toni Morrison, Russell Simmons, Al Sharpton, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Sean Combs are among the many African Americans whose faces are seen and voices heard in *The Black List Project*. The images, photographic and filmed, are the core of the collaboration between Greenfield-Sanders and Mitchell that has resulted in *The Black List (Volume One)*, an HBO documentary that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008 and was aired nationally for the first time in August 2008, and a multi-city museum exhibition organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The entire film will be presented at various times, to be announced, throughout the run of the exhibition.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. 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.