



January 2006

Brooklyn Museum Presents Wide Range of Public Programs in Celebration of William Wegman Exhibition

In conjunction with the premiere of *William Wegman: Funney|Strange*, a major retrospective on view from March 10 through May 28, 2006, the Brooklyn Museum will present a wide range of public programs, most of them free with Museum admission.

Inspired by William Wegman's drawings that imagine what lies beyond the boundaries of a photograph, the Museum's Student Advisory Board has planned an art-making workshop based on work solicited from local amateur photographers. At the March 4 *Target First Saturday* visitors will be able to view these photographs on the theme of funny and strange and cast their vote for their favorites. Winners will be announced at *Target First Saturday* on April 1.

The *Target First Saturday* on April Fool's Day will feature an evening of programs of unpredictable fun, many of which are inspired by the work of artist William Wegman. From 5:15 to 6 p.m. there will be works by Peng Hung-Chih, a video artist recently moved to Brooklyn from China, whose witty and irreverent videos allow the viewer to experience life from a dog's-eye-view, bringing the absurdity of modern life and human strengths and foibles into plain sight. From 6 to 8 p.m. the WIYOS, a Brooklyn band, will infuse old-time American music, early swing, and ragtime blues with new blood and a theatrical flair. At 6:30 p.m. "Silent Comedy Canines" will present a special program of classic silent-film shorts with live piano accompaniment, that features famous dog actors and comedians. Free tickets are available at the Independence Community Foundation Visitor Center at 5:30 p.m.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., visitors of all ages will take their inspiration from William Wegman's work to create a colorful and abstract picture, using a postcard as a starting point. Free timed tickets are available in the Education Gallery beginning at 6 p.m. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. members of the famous improv troupe, the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theater will travel throughout the Museum weaving a comedic web of unscripted performances in some very unpredictable places. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. an art-making workshop adjacent to *William Wegman: Funney|Strange* will give visitors a chance to view local photographers' responses to the challenge of creating art that is funny or strange, and then draw beyond the boundaries of one of those photographs in a process similar to Wegman's. At 8 p.m., Curator Marilyn Kushner will lead a tour of *William Wegman: Funney|Strange*. Free tickets available at the Visitor Center at 7 p.m.

Brooklyn Museum

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As always, *Target First Saturdays* in March and April will include a 9 p.m. Dance Party, as well as additional public programs.

Public programs related to *William Wegman: Funney Strange* include:

Saturday, March 11

3 p.m. Artist Talk: William Wegman discusses his work in the special exhibition *William Wegman: Funney/Strange*. A book signing follows. (Time to be confirmed.)

Sunday, March 19

2 p.m. Gallery Talk: Museum Guides lead a tour of *William Wegman: Funney/Strange*.

3-5 p.m. Music Off the Walls: Brooklyn Philharmonic presents "Carnival of the Animals," a family concert inspired by the William Wegman exhibition and featuring works by Gershwin and Satie and the premiere of a commissioned piece by Brooklyn composer Aaron Grad. For information or to purchase tickets, call the Philharmonic at (718) 488-5913.

Sunday, March 26

12 – 6 p.m. Movies @ the Museum: Short films and videos by William Wegman, will include a spoof on the Hardy Boys mystery series starring two curious dogs, as well as a compilation of Sesame Street segments with a troupe of canine actors.

Saturday, April 1

5:15– 6 p.m. Film: Experience a dog's-eye-view of the world in this presentation of new works by video artist Peng Hung-Chih.

6–8 p.m. World Music: The Brooklyn-based band WIYOS performs old-time music with vaudeville flair.

6:30 p.m. Family Film and Music: Classic silent short films featuring famous dogs and comedians with live piano accompaniment by Ben Model. Free tickets available at the Visitor Center at 5:30 p.m.

6:30–8:30 p.m. Hands-On Art: Take your cue from William Wegman's work to create a colorful and abstract picture, using a postcard as your starting point. Free timed tickets available in the Education Gallery beginning at 6:00 p.m.

7–8:30 p.m. Performance: Members of the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theater stage impromptu comedy sketches in various locations throughout the Museum.

7:30–9:30 p.m. Art-Making Workshop: Draw beyond the boundaries of a funny or strange photograph by a local artist, in a process similar to Wegman's.

8 p.m. Curator Talk: Curator Marilyn Kushner in *William Wegman: Funney/Strange*. Free tickets available at the Visitor Center at 7 p.m.

Saturday April 22

12–6 p.m. Movies @ the Museum: Short films and videos by William Wegman

William Wegman: Funney Strange, a retrospective including more than 200 works created over the past four decades is sponsored at the Brooklyn Museum by Commerce Bank. Additional support is provided by the Brooklyn Museum's Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Exhibition Fund. *AM New York* is media sponsor. *William Wegman: Funney Strange* was organized by the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. Generous support for the exhibition and publication was provided by The Henry Luce Foundation. *AM New York* is media sponsor. Following the Brooklyn presentation, the exhibition will travel to the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D. C.; the Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach; and the Addison Gallery.

End

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free with Museum admission. For program locations, pick up a copy of the weekly events sheet at the Admissions Desk or consult the program signs in the Grand Lobby. Programs are subject to change; call (718) 638-5000 and press 1 and then 5 for up-to-date information.

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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.