

ART IN ODD PLACES



IMAGE: Olek, Thank you for your visit, Have a Nice Day, Photo credit: Olek.

Even when measured against the standard eclectic New York avenue, 14th Street is especially diverse. From Union Square Park to Trader Joe's, the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and a bunch of discount clothing and electronic stores, the sites are, well, all over the map. This month its span of almost two miles, from Avenue C to the Hudson River, is looking even more varied than usual, since a group of almost 60 artists with a wide range of art projects has invaded for the fifth annual Art in Odd Places festival.

Previously, the Odd Places festival has sprawled throughout the East Village, but last year Ed Woodham, its founder and director, chose 14th Street and decided to return there again since "you just get this whole gamut of people."

Each year the festival has a theme; this time artists were asked to explore meanings of "sign." "It's a word loaded with different interpretations," Mr. Woodham said. "Today's world is full of signs clearly pointing to a need for an adjustment of the status quo, yet life as normal continues on seemingly ignoring them," he added. "What's up with that?"

The festival projects, using the theme as a jumping-off point, include guided tours that highlight the history of the area (one is devoted entirely to the bricks that make up Stuyvesant Town); a roving quartet of horn players who plant themselves at the four corners of intersections and play Mexican folk ballads; a team of good Samaritans offering to give directions in several different languages; even performers wearing crocheted outfits and holding signs from several countries, above.

There are more subtle offerings as well, like poetry on manhole covers, love letters hidden in unexpected places and dollar bills slipped into phone booths or other nooks where they may or may not be discovered.

The average harried New Yorker may miss a lot, but that doesn't bother Mr. Woodham. One goal is to encourage the reassessment of familiar surroundings, he said: "So much of our audience is unaware that the Art in Odd Places festival exists on 14th Street until they happen upon a performance or installation. I'm hoping that for a moment they will rethink their routine trajectory and see the same corner they've passed by hundreds of times in a new light."

(Through Oct. 26. Project descriptions, schedules and a map are available at artinoddplaces.org.) **STEVEN McELROY**

Fall preview 2009

Art in Odd Places 2009

A look at what's coming to this annual art festival.



Now in its fifth year, this annual festival brings 60 or so artworks to 14th Street, all of which focus on the theme of signs. "It seemed that at this particular point in time, people are more attuned to signs and omens," says writer and editor Radhika Subramaniam, who, along with Lower Manhattan Cultural Council artistic director Erin Donnelly, is guest-curating this year's festival. Below, Subramaniam discusses three of the pieces in the show.

Cyriaco Lopes, *Big Bronze Statues*

"Blending mythology and whimsy, Lopes will leave love letters from historical and fictional gay people in public spaces. The letters will be replenished every day."

Olek, *Thank You for Your Visit, Have a Nice Day*

"Olek is into wearable sculptures, and how the body functions as a sign. Her performers will appear in various sites on 14th Street in multicolored crocheted camouflage, displaying signs collected by the artist from different countries that are in emphatic, ironic or amused dialogue with their location."

LuLu LoLo, *Extra! Extra! Read All About 14th Street*

"In vintage knickers and cap like a turn-of-the-century newsboy, LuLu LoLo will hawk a weekly tabloid, *The Fourteenth Street Tribune*, that recalls famous, notorious and tumultuous events from the history of 14th Street, such as the Hearn's department-store riot, the opening of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at 128 West 14th Street, the appearance of Lillian Russell at Tony Pastor's and more."—Amy Plitt

14th St between Ave C and the Hudson River (artinoddplaces.org). Oct 1–26.

THERE'S ART IN ODD PLACES ALONG 14TH STREET

BY JOSEPH ALEXIOU



NEXT »



Thursday marked the beginning of the fifth annual **Art in Odd Places** —a month-long public art festival that takes place on 14th street in Manhattan.

This year AIOP director **Ed Woodham**, along with co-curators **Erin Donnelly** and **Radhika Subramaniam**, bring us the work of 59 artists via the theme "Sign." All pieces exhibited are displayed in various publicly accessible areas, but none of the artists obtained permits—part of the project's goal is to explore the meaning of public space and how artists can create work within it, without requesting the permission of the city. Using the sidewalk as a sort of living canvas, AIOP poses a **Jane Jacobs**-ian query into the ways in which urban public life plays into daily life.

Notable projects this year include: "Portable Fountains" by **Tim Thyzel**; the slow, contemplative movement of the **City Meditation Crew**; **Michael Willett**'s "Limited Time Only" displayed in the windows of the **Pratt Manhattan Gallery**; and "Burns for Mayor," a project by **Kenny Komer** and **Boris Rasin** which has already received mentions in various publications, including **PAPERMAG**. The piece is part of a campaign to fight the re-election of **Michael Bloomberg** for a third term as mayor, and proposes "**The Simpsons**" character **Montgomery Burns** instead.

Find maps exhibits on the AIOP website or at various 14th St. businesses including **Rags A Go-Go** (218 W. 14th St.), **Arties Hardware** (140 W. 14th St.), **Gavroche** (212 W. 14th St.), and the **14th St. Y** (344 E. 14th St.).

Additional credits for projects shown:

left to right:

Image #1: "Burns for Mayor" and Edward Schexnayder's ongoing "Silver Lining" below

Image #2: Billy Friebele's "Sign as Site"

Image #3: one of Tim Thyzel's "Portable Fountains"

Image #4: City Meditation Crew's "Walking Slowly"

Image #5: Nicholas Fraser's "Unfixed/Unfixable"

Image #6: A street demonstration, part of Common Threads Art Collective's "Retailing 14th Street"

Image #7: Liz Linden's "Copy"

Image #8 & 9: Gretchen Vitamvas' "Disruptive Ad Pattern #1"

Image #10: Our hard working curators Radhika and Erin

Michael Jackson movie, Adam Lambert and Kris Allen albums and NYC Marathon are musts for fall

BY GINA SALAMONE, LEAH CHERNIKOFF, ROBERT DOMINGUEZ, SHERRYL CONNELLY, NICOLE CARTER, JIM FARBER, ISSY LAPOWSKI, JOE DZIEMIANOWICZ, AMY EISINGER AND NICOLE LYN PESCE

Thursday, September 24th 2009, 4:00 AM

As the city comes alive again after a long, not-so-hot summer, the calendar is buzzing with more events and entertainment than ever.

If the free museum visits and the new "Twilight" flick don't move you to action, then how about a bike race, gourmet tastings with "Top Chef" stars, or a shopping spree at [Manhattan's](#) very first [Costco](#) or in H&M, where [Jimmy Choo](#) shoes arrive soon?

And you thought the leaf-peepers had all the fun...

24. Who says art exhibits have to be confined to a gallery? "Sign" - a free public art and performance festival presented by Art in Odd Places from Oct. 1-26 - will feature the work of 60 artists from around the world splashed across 14th St. Projects range from sculptures of dying silkworm moths on walls to video projections on windows. For more information, visit artinoddplaces.org...

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West and East Village, Chelsea, Soho, Noho, Little Italy, Chinatown and Lower East Side, Since 1933

The A-List

Compiled by Scott Stiffler, Scott@thevillager.com

Events



ART IN ODD PLACES

Tours of manhole covers; portable fountains; parades featuring electro-acoustic bicycles and fashions made from recycled paper clothing bearing phrases culled from NYC street slang. If that sounds odd, well, that's the point. Art in Odd Places (AiOP) aims to present art that stretches the boundaries of communication in the public realm. Their festival, "Art in Odd Places 2009," explores the ordinary and ingenious to be found in the

spectacle of daily life. For those who care to look, there's no better place to find odd than 14th Street. That's where you'll discover uncanny, uncategoryzable works from over 60 participating artists. Oct 1 through Oct 26. Locations vary; 14th Street, from Avenue C to the Hudson River. For a schedule of events, visit

www.artinoddplaces.org.

Photo by Pam Payne "Physical Graffiti," by Pam Payne



The advertising campaign and its drive to generate sales have become one of the foremost obsessions of the United States, particularly exacerbated by this time of crisis and economic downturn. Marketers, who once sold products and ideas, are now selling the solutions to the problems that their aggressive and shameless marketing has caused. Ultimately we are constantly surrounded by advertisements of all sorts. But within the plethora of advertisements an American, or more locally and densely, a New Yorker sees, how many manage to facilitate a sale? This year's *Art in Odd Places* (AIOP) event, appropriately entitled "Sign," aims to question the boundaries of communication in the public realm by presenting artworks of all disciplines in a public and unorthodox manner.



The Common Threads Art Collective (CTAC), one of the first performances of the four-week long *AIOP* event, tested that boundary on October 1st in Union Square Park with a public demonstration to bring awareness to the experiences of 14th Street retail workers of the past, present and future. In their performance, "PB&J for a Retail Economy," the CTAC revisited the bread-line as a tool for subsidizing low-wage employment and armed each contributor with a sandwich board that

depicted the history of workers' strikes and bread-lines; meanwhile Rev. Billy and the Church of Life After Shopping blessed the line and all those who had gathered in need of a raise or employment.

While the Common Threads Art Collective offered visitors to *AIOP* a theatrical and engaging experience, the various other pieces available for viewing on the first day of the event were a bit more inconspicuous. Two of my personal favorites took advantage of the architecture and other structures that are so identifiable in New York. In "Invasive Crochet," *Crystal Gregory* takes her guerilla crochet technique and challenges gender assumption by weaving feminine lace work into the crevices and spaces of masculine urban landscapes, in this case a barbed wire fence on 14th Street between 1st Ave and Ave A. Meanwhile eight avenue-blocks west, *Oona Stern*'s work "Brick," consisting of three rectangles of neon lights, is reminiscent of a pattern of brick construction. Its physical structure evokes the humble but essential brick, while its illuminations are a salute to neon advertising and implicitly broadcast a familiar message: "Bricks for Sale. Buy Now."



Art In Odd Places arms its visitors with not only a map of the exhibits that line 14th Street, but with also a heightened sense of awareness that the average citizen or visitor to New York generally lacks. The daily blur of life blinds most people walking through the hubbub of 14th Street; yet when it is unexpectedly lifted and we are forced to confront the space around us, we suddenly find ourselves in an artistic and critical exchange with the public space.

Art In Odd Places spans 14th Street from October 1-26, 2009. Visit <http://www.artinoddpaces.org> for maps and information on various tours and events.

Walk the street and open your eyes.

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Town & Village

50 CENTS
October 8, 2009
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Photo courtesy of AiOP

FEELING A LITTLE FATIGUED—A display in crochet by artist Olek was just one of the exhibits featured in the ongoing Art in Odd Places Festival along 14th Street. For more details, see Page 2.

Art in Odd Places Festival 2009



"Invasive Crochet," an exhibit by Crystal Gregory

For the second time, the month-long Art in Odd Places festival (AiOP) is running through the entire length of the street from the Highline to the East River. Some of the exhibits are ongoing, while others that are performance-based will occupy certain blocks on different days through October 26. One of the projects, entitled, "U-Brick-Quitous," is a walking tour around Stuyvesant Town, with a focus on the bricks and construction that made up the complex. There will also be a modern day bread line, crochet statues, a public napping exhibit and poetry verses being projected into the small fountain at Union Square Park. For a full schedule of AiOP exhibits, visit artinoddplaces.org.

Big Think

Has Mayor Bloomberg Finally Met his Match in a Cartoon?

With New York City Comptroller [William Thompson](#) now officially going head-to-head against Mike Bloomberg in his bid for a third term as Mayor of New York City, a clandestine political opposition has enlisted the help of another famous entrepreneur to fight against Bloomberg's quest. Oh, and he's a cartoon.

With the Thompson nomination, New Yorkers are finally being reminded that there is a mayoral election on November 3rd. It's a necessary reminder considering Bloomberg appeared poised to steamroll to another term just months ago. But with a [Daily News/Marist poll](#) indicating that Bloomberg may be vulnerable, could [Monte Burns](#) be the election wild card?

He has served as a member of the Flying Hellfish during World War II and hired 1,000 monkeys to write the great American novel. Now [Springfield's Charles Montgomery Burns](#), the misguided scion from the award-winning animated series "the Simpsons," has one more prize in his sights. With a [compelling new web site](#), the fictional millionaire has officially launched his campaign to become Mayor of New York. Officially launched through a group calling themselves Concerned New Yorkers for Monty Burns as well as the [Art in Odd Places Festival](#), the campaign promises to bring city bus and train fares down to five cents as well as eliminating unnecessary boroughs.

The TV show doesn't appear to have any formal connection with the campaign, nor does Democratic candidate Thompson. With a [dedicated YouTube channel](#), the movement behind the [vest-loving Burns](#) appears to be the work of two anti-Bloomberg New York-area artists, [Kenny Kormer and Boris Rasin](#).

Even if New Yorkers decide not to vote for a fictional character, the Burns site does serve another intriguing purpose. It provides links for voter registration and absentee ballots, an absolutely-necessary initiative considering at one point many New Yorkers apathetically envisioned Bloomberg winning his third term in a cakewalk. And with a new Marist poll indicating that [47% of voters are tired](#) of Bloomberg, the Burns campaign could serve an unexpected purpose.

Tea for two at Art in Odd Places

Posted in [Art](#) by [Time Out Art](#) on October 8th, 2009 at 1:52 pm



As every New Yorker knows, strange sights are a dime a dozen on 14th Street. So, on a block where only a man with aquamarine dreadlocks may stand out, it is easy to miss some of the gems that [Art in Odd Places \(AiOP\)](#) has to offer.

[Michele Brody's Tea House Productions](#), on the corner of 14th Street at Irving Place, is one of the many unobtrusive works in AiOP, an art exhibition of performances and interventions (running October 1 through 26) all along 14th Street. Housed inside a metal and Plexiglas coffee cart—the kind seen on almost every corner in Manhattan—the display in the windows comprises used teabags, instead of the regular fare of doughnuts and other assorted pastries. Brody invites pedestrians to join her inside, offering a cup of tea to anyone willing to stop and join her for a chat. In our conversation, I learned that Brody didn't begin the project as a performance, but that it stemmed from her background in fiber studies, a fascination with tea stains and an interest in daily rituals. The works that inspired *Tea House Productions*—and the ones that come out of it—are the transcriptions of her conversations over tea, scrawled onto the dried teabags that were used.

AiOP offers many other ways to become part of the art, along with several subtle surprises demonstrating that art can be found in the details of a busy street. Go for a walk this month from the Hudson to the East River, or check out our slide show for a quick preview.—*Emily Bauman*

Tea House Productions will be repeated Oct 16–18 2–6pm, and Brody's [Tea Cart Stories](#) will be on display at [The Tenement Museum](#) through December.

ART VIDEO: City Meditation Crew Tells New Yorkers to "Slow Down"

Posted by [Jonny Diamond](#) on Thu, Oct 8, 2009 at 4:23 PM

As part of the month-long **Art in Odd Places** festival the **City Meditation Crew** recently brought their "hey man, slow down" philosophy to Union Square, where they slowly constructed a giant mandala from discarded gum wrappers (in honor of Gandhi's birthday, October 2). Videographer extraordinaire, Emmanuel Cruz filmed the whole thing.



Filmed and edited by Emmanuel Cruz

FOR FULL VIDEO:

<http://www.thelmagazine.com/TheMeasure/archives/2009/10/08/video-city-meditation-crew-tells-new-yorkers-to-slow-down>

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10/17/2009

Art in Odd Places; A Review: Crystal Gregory

What are the politics of public art? In particular, how does public art compete against the city, where signs, text, and sheer energy overwhelm? Art in Odd Places removes art from the confines of the gallery and brings it to the street - 14th Street. Rather than curated on blank white walls Art in Odd Places brings together artists working around the world outside boundaries. The theme this year: The Sign. The interpretation of that concept has been varied including elaborate dance performances, stickers, stencils, and meditation practices.

Crystal Gregory, an artist who works with crochet, recontextualizing the art object denying its autonomy by creating works that are completed in their placement, has woven webs located in the barbed wire stretching across a fenced-in abandoned lot on 14th street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue.



Town & Village

July 16th 2009

'U-brick-quitous'

Artist to offer walking tour of Stuy Town

By Sabina Mollot

The burgundy bricks that make up the buildings of Stuyvesant Town will be the subject of an upcoming project for Art in Odd Places, an annual public and performance art festival, that this year will take place along the entire length of 14th Street.

The project, "*U-brick-quitous*," by artist Jean-Marc Superville-Sovak will actually be a guided tour focusing on some of Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village's 36,500,000 bricks made from the clay banks of the Hudson River and the stories of how and where they were made.

Stuyvesant Town residents will be invited to add their own anecdotes on the brick structures and life inside them.

Superville-Sovak, who describes himself as a "brick enthusiast," lives in Beacon, New York, where a tremendous amount of the brick was made.

"I'm a brick nut," he said, adding that he came up with the idea for the tour after reading the book, *Eleven Stories High: Growing Up in Stuyvesant Town* by Corinne Demas.

He then walked through the complex where he struck up a conversation with a maintenance worker about the buildings, which the employee described as "indestructible."

"Just the way they were built, the plumbing is indestructible, the outside brick veneer is indestructible,"

said Superville-Sovak. "Buildings are just not made this way, anymore. It's a bygone era, architecturally speaking."

His project will be one of 60 exhibits and performances for Art in Odd Places (AiOP), a predominantly grassroots event, which will run from October 1-26, from Stuyvesant Town to the High Line.

This will be the second year the festival runs on 14th Street, and according to AiOP's two volunteer curators, Erin Donnelly and Radhika Subramium, the location was chosen for a reason.

"Fourteenth Street has the geographical breadth and metaphoric depth to make it an apt location for art that manifests the signs of our times and while also being a signpost toward future possibilities," they said in an official statement.

"Sign" is actually the keyword in the event, with all the projects incorporating signs as a theme.

"It's a broadly conceived project," said Subramium. "It's meant to make you see different things a little differently for a while or to amuse you or make you look at local politics. It's meant to show you things you wouldn't otherwise pay attention to."

Besides U-brick-quitous, planned projects include a satirical costume race running from the Con Ed Plant to the Hudson River, an electro-

Continued on Page 6



Artist and "brick enthusiast" Jean-Marc Superville-Sovak

acoustic bicycle parade, a public napping exhibit and a fashion walk with participants in recycled paper clothing emblazoned with phrases characteristic of New York streets. The event, which has run once a year for the past five years in New York, was actually founded in 1996 in Atlanta by teaching artist Ed Woodham.

This year's is expected to be the biggest, said Subra-

mium, adding that over 200 artists had applied to be part of it. In previous years, AiOP operated as part of the East Village Howl! festival.

AiOP is a predominantly grassroots endeavor that aims to present art in nontraditional spaces. GOH Productions is the sponsor.

To contact Superville-Sovak about the tour, e-mail superchib@gmail.com or call (845) 853-5227.

Art in Odd Places



Art in Odd Places is a site-specific art festival created in 2005. The festival takes place in New York City on the 14th Street. Mission of the festival is to explore 'the odd, ordinary and ingenious in the spectacle of daily life'. Guest curators of the 2009 edition are Erin Donnelly and Radhika Subramaniam.

<http://artinoddplaces.org/>

A particularly interesting feat is the soundscape project 'LISTENING TO 14th STREET' created by THE NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY. To give you an idea of what this is all about, you can check this other project by them, called *Soundseeker*.

<http://www.soundseeker.org/>

Very much in the line of the classic World Soundscapes Project, but taking advantage of Googlemaps and digital recorders. We also talked about soundscapes in a past issue of *lo Squaderno* (no. 10). Check it out: <http://www.professionaldreamers.net/?p=233>



Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Is That Art?

NEW YORK (Wireless Flash - FlashNews) – Sometimes, it's hard to tell what is and isn't art.

Art In Odd Places is an outdoor event that features numerous art and performance pieces created by New York's most creative folks.

The masterpieces are strewn along two-and-a-half miles of the Big Apple's streets.

Passersby will be met with tours of manhole covers, paintings, projected imagery, and other artsy works, but may not even realize it.

Co-creator Ed Woodham says that with all the wackiness that's usually going on along 14th street, where the event takes place throughout this month, it may be "hard to tell what's art and what's not."

However, that's the "wonderful thing" about the Arts In Odd Places event, because it gets people to notice the strange beauty they pass everyday.

He explains, "People encounter Art In Odd Places without realizing it. Hopefully we'll remind them to re-assess their surroundings and look at the corner they pass everyday in a new light."

(Contact numbers available only to subscribing media or trial media users. You can request samples at the [Wireless Flash](#) web site.)

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Art in odd places

17. ott. 2009



When you walk down 14th Street this October, watch for signs that life isn't as it has been. For the second year, Art in Odd Places, NYC's free annual public art and performance festival, gives daily life from Avenue C to the Hudson River an artistic twist. Under the rubric 'SIGN', over 60 artists, from New York and beyond, creatively engage the street, using ideas, imagination, humor, and politics to encourage its residents, workers, and visitors to experience it anew.

Projects include the ephemeral – real and imagined gay love letters left on a bench, dollar bills planted in an exploration of the gift, or handmade sculptures of dying silkworm moths on walls and signs – and the spectacular – video projections on windows of the street's bawdy, protest history, an alternative election campaign or a satirical costumed race for the Arctic. It includes the simply odd – public napping, wearable sculptures in crochet and campy frills – and the oddly simple – tributes, through tour and installation, to the ordinary brick or to manholes, or a shamanic cleansing of the street by an artist with a broom.

“We invited artists to explore the freedoms of the public realm and find imaginative apertures in it,” say guest curators, Erin Donnelly and Radhika Subramaniam. “In 14th Street, we had a site uniquely calibrated to encourage art that manifests the signs of our times while also being a signpost toward future possibilities.” “Art in Odd Places continues New York's tradition of grassroots artistic collaboration with grand ambitions,” says Ed Woodham, Director of Art in Odd Places.

Images from above:

Liz Magic Laser, Distressed. Photo Liz Magic Laser

Aaron Cedolia, Need Directions?. Photo Geoffrey Jackson Scott

Beth Dary and Christy Speakman, Full Service Island

Bokyung Jun, Life Is Not Easy For Any Of Us. Photo Areum Lee

LuLu LoLo, Extra! Extra! Read All About 14th Street!, Photo Paul Takeuchi

Cyriaco Lopes, Big Bronze Statues. Photo Cyriaco Lopes

Eric Moschopedis and Mia Rushton, Zs by the C, Photo Bryce Krynski

Olek, Thank you for your visit, Have a Nice Day, Photo Olek

[Zoomdoggle: More fun than work!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Art In Odd Places 2009



WHEN: From now until the end of the month (Oct 31)

WHERE: All along New York City's 14th Street

WHAT: "Art in Odd Places (AiOP) is an artist-led initiative presenting art and performance that stretches the possibilities of the public realm." What's that mean? It means keep your eyes peeled, there's some really awesome stuff poking it's head out, without warning, and in some fairly unexpected places. Too many artists to list, too many fun projects to mention (Ice Race: Cross Town Dash? I am so there), full details after the jump.