

## MURRAY HILL AND GRAMERCY

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### Artist Explores Connections with Strangers in New Public Art Project

September 28, 2011 8:16am | By Mary Johnson, DNAInfo Reporter/Producer

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Seth Caplan, 23, will install two sound boxes around Union Square as part of his art project "And then I said..." ([Bench Stories](#)). (DNAInfo/Mary Johnson)

UNION SQUARE — Contact with strangers is inevitable in New York City. Pedestrians brush pass each other while walking down the sidewalk. Straphangers briefly survey other passengers on the subway before returning to their books or smartphones.

But every so often, two complete strangers connect in some way, however fleetingly. Those random moments captivate artist Seth Caplan, so he recorded people talking about them.

Now, he's planning to use those recordings as part of a public art project with the annual [Art in Odd Places Festival](#), beginning Saturday.

"When you pause in the subway or you're sitting on a park bench, you open yourself up to contact with someone," said Caplan, 23. "For the project, I wanted to take those moments of private connection that happen in public spaces."

Caplan raised about \$800 on [Kickstarter](#) to finance the art installation, titled "[And then I said...](#)" ([Bench Stories](#)). He used the cash to assemble two sound boxes — about 4 1/2-by-4 1/2 inches each and constructed of steel, copper and wood — outfitted with mp3 players and tiny speakers.

One will be placed inside the subway station at 14th Street and Sixth Avenue, while the other will be set up on a bench in Union Square Park. Both will play recorded stories of stranger-to-stranger encounters.

Caplan collected the stories from friends and family, as well as from strangers. He set up a phone line that allowed people to call in and record, but he also took a digital camera to several New York City parks and interviewed average New Yorkers about those moments of personal connection that happen in public.

Some people knew exactly what he was looking for, he said, but others needed explanation. Caplan told them that he was looking for stories about things like locked eyes across a subway train, people who have encroached too closely on someone's personal space or impromptu conversations.

Caplan listened to all the stories and edited them together to create one seamless stream of audio.

Now, he's waiting to see how people react.

"I don't know if it's going to work. This is my first public art installation," Caplan said.

The Great Neck, Long Island, native graduated from Washington University in St. Louis last year with a degree in photography. He came home to New York and wants to pursue art, but said he can't afford to do that exclusively.



One of the boxes will be set up on a bench in Union Square. Another will be placed in the subway station at 14th Street and Sixth Avenue. (DNAInfo/Mary Johnson)

"I have to have like five jobs right now," said Caplan, who lives in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

He works as a photographer's assistant two days a week, a waiter three times a week and a general freelancer who takes on a variety of projects for a price. In October, he will start volunteering one day a week with the [Guggenheim Learning Through Art project](#), which will allow him to teach fourth-graders about art and also to learn different methods of instruction, he said.

Whatever time isn't occupied by trying to scrape by, Caplan dedicates to art. Most recently, that has meant putting everything he's got into "And then I said..." (Bench Stories).

The boxes will be set up in the two locations, on and off, for a week. An attendant — either Caplan or one of his friends — will stay with the boxes at all times to make sure that no one walks away with them or damages them, he said.

But they will try to remain inconspicuous enough so that they won't interfere in people's interactions with the boxes, he added.

Caplan said he isn't sure what to expect from passersby. He knows people will be aware of the project because of his affiliation with Art in Odd Places, but it remains to be seen how the everyday strangers he's targeting will respond.

In the small amount of testing he has done so far, Caplan said some have been apprehensive about interacting with a strange box in a public setting. But one woman sat down next to it and just stayed there, listening for awhile, he said.

Whatever reactions do come from the installation could spawn Caplan's next big art project — although he hasn't yet thought about what that could be.

"That's the exciting thing about the creative process," he said. "It's never over."

For a schedule of when and where the boxes from "And then I said..." (Bench Stories) will be on display, visit the [Caplan's website](#).

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By [Mary Johnson](#), [DNAinfo.com](#)  
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## MANHATTAN

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### Art in Odd Places Festival to Turn 14th Street Strange

September 30, 2011 2:51pm | By [Andres Svalac](#), DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

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"El Sertano" by Alejandro Guzmán is "a physical embodiment of metaphysical existence, exploring the concrete manifestations of human nature, behavior ... and materialism," the artist said. (Art in Odd Places)

MANHATTAN — For the next 10 days, Union Square street performers and new subway cell phone service won't be the weirdest things on 14th Street.

Dozens of projects and performances by offbeat public artists will be on display on the thoroughfare from the East River to the Hudson River beginning on Saturday.

"68 artists, one long street, 10 days — one night to kick off the festival," the festival's Twitter page reads.

This seventh incarnation of the festival devoted to "the sacred and profane of everyday actions in the ... urban environment" focuses on ritual, ceremony and superstition, according to a statement.

Art fans and unsuspecting pedestrians may see a person entirely covered by fabric and tree branches, subway signs altered to include historical place names like "Breuckelen," an audio installation on city benches and a wish station.

The festival, which was curated by Trinidad Fombella of El Museo del Barrio and Kalle Brooks of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art, is scheduled to kick off Saturday morning with an installation on the statue of George Washington in Union Square Park.

Artist Leon Reid IV will outfit the statue with an "I [hear] NY" cap, a camera, a subway map and shopping bags, transforming it into "Tourist-in-Chief," according to a statement by AIOF.

"What this project does, and what Art in Odd Places hopes to do, is to see the city and its normal surroundings in a new light," AIOF founder and director Ed Woodham said in the statement.

The installation from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, which the Parks Department initially refused to approve, will be the first time the statue has been used in a work of art, according to the statement.

A full schedule of performances is available on the festival's website.

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By [Andres Svalac](#), DNAinfo.com  
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### Art: Festival

## Art in Odd Places 2011: Ritual



Sherry Aliberti, Ed Woodham and 8 others like this.



Art In Odd Places

#### When

Oct 1–10  
Daily

#### Where

14th Street from Avenue C to the Hudson River

#### Price

Free

#### Links

[Info Source](#)

“ These days, there seems to be interest in street occupation in New York City. First there’s the protest on Wall Street, and now Art in Odd Places is temporarily taking over 14th Street with its annual festival of public art. From Avenue C to the Hudson River, over 60 artists are set to present work dealing with the theme of ritual. From ceremony and myth to superstition and obsession, artists have created their own interpretations of the theme and are expected to perform random, many interactive, acts over the course of the ten-day event. So if while strolling down 14th Street you see someone kissing a tree or people dancing in amoeba cocooned costumes, don’t be afraid – it’s just folks getting their art on. ”

Mindy Bond, Flavorpill

#### Note:

The festival’s opening reception takes place Friday, September 30 from 6-9pm at Theaterlab.

# THE LUSH SIDE

ABOUT MANHATTAN BROOKLYN ENTERTAINMENT PARKS PROJECT



1  
OCT

## Art in Odd Places: Glandathon Workshop



NewSchool, Kellen Auditorium, 10 p.m.

So here starts my journey through the 10-day, Art in Odd Places Festival (AIOP), where artists gather to exhibit interactive pieces based on this year's theme "Ritual." Exhibitions will be held along 14th Street until October 10. For a pdf of the festival's program, visit [www.artinoddplaces.org/programguide.php](http://www.artinoddplaces.org/programguide.php).

Artist: Linda Mary Montano; her website [here](#)

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Artist Linda May Montano



"We want to vege out collective complacency, it's already happenin g now at Wall Street... Art is for justice and healing." —Ed Woodham, foundin d director of AUCF



On 10.04.11 in **Art & Culture** by **Allison Kjeldgaard**

## ART IN ODD PLACES FESTIVAL RECLAIMS PUBLIC SPACE



Over the next two weeks, New Yorkers will notice quite a few unusual things happening around the city: passersby cleansing the feet of black clothed figures; young, smiling mothers devouring life-sized, edible babies; a woman wrapping herself burrito-style in brightly colored cloth; dirty sidewalks strewn with carefully placed rose petals; and much more.

Welcome to *Art In Odd Places 2011: RITUAL*, a ten day festival during which over 60 artists will display the spiritual, social, political and everyday significance of rituals along 14th Street.

Ed Woodham, creator and founder of Art In Odd Places (AIOP), has been planning the annual festival in New York since 2005. Every October, AIOP adopts a single word that encompasses a variety of meanings to be explored by artists. This year the word is "ritual."

"My hope is that pedestrians have an 'aha' moment where they rethink their patterns of travel and behavior even for a brief second—instigated by one of the 'rituals' encountered along the street," Woodham commented in an email.

Lucia Warck Meister, this year's festival producer, was looking forward to seeing the public's reaction to the festival over opening weekend.

"I'm very excited to see that all these interpretations of ritual are presented in the artists' works," Meister said, "and that the casual passersby will get engaged or connect with them because they respond to our inner selves."

Friday was the opening reception of the festival at Theaterlab. Mustachioed artist LuLu LoLo greeted visitors at the entrance in a top hat and tails. Reggae music of Turkish performer Egemen Sanli floated down the stairs of the small, brick building.

As the sun set, Australian artist Bindil Cole began tossing feathers from the roof of the building as part of her *The Shelter Under the Shadow of His Wings* project. Down below, Sherry Allbert's brightly colored Cocoon appeared. Covered from head to toe in blob-like, stretchy material, Allbert's performers began their contorted dance down 14th Street to gather at Hudson River Park by sunset.

By 7 p.m., AIOP artists performing their rituals in the street had drawn quite a crowd of curious visitors.

"Rituals is a good theme because they generally involve group activities and community, and that aligns really well with the purpose of the festival," Devon Walsh, the festival's administrative assistant, said.

The purpose of the festival encompasses more than simply displaying unusual art. Woodham began these festivals to react to the disconnect he saw developing between individuals and their awareness of public space.

According to Woodham, the most pertinent mission of AIOP is to reclaim "public space and civil liberties" by "expressing and communicating in public spaces without permits."

(Article continued on next page)

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On 10.04.11 in **Art, Art & Culture** by **Allison Kjeldgaard**

## ART IN ODD PLACES FESTIVAL RECLAIMS PUBLIC SPACE



"I'm hoping that the repetition of these [rituals] will create a ripple effect in the collective consciousness to wake up our complacency," Woodham remarked. "That's my personal focus or wish for the ritual of the festival. A tall order, I know."

But really, how could any pedestrian remain complacent toward artists Anya Littig and Caitlin Berrigan, for example, who walk along 14th Street devouring what seem to be blanket-wrapped babies?

"I overheard a curator talking about a fellow female performance artist," Littig recounted, describing her inspiration for the project. "Her name was dismissed from consideration because she had recently given birth. This performance is about expressing that ambivalence."

Littig and Berrigan's project, *Adoring Appetite*, is meant to explore the obsessions, myths, and terrors of motherhood—through cannibalism.

"Come on," Littig added, "Who doesn't want to eat a baby?"

Berrigan and Littig also hope to bring attention to the pressures women face around having and raising children.

"On a more serious level," Berrigan wrote in an email, "women are so pressured to have children, yet women's reproductive rights are increasingly under threat at the same time that women are increasingly criminalized for 'failing' as mothers."

Next year, Woodham and his team will continue to stretch the boundaries of art and utilize public space to its fullest, hopefully expanding out of the annual festival.

"I see the concept of Art In Odd Places moving beyond the yearly festival with programming throughout the year in different—odd—areas of the five boroughs," Woodham commented.

The word for 2012: "model," encompassing artistic expressions of fashion, prototype, pose, imitate, plan and system.

"Best case scenario is that pedestrians see the street and their everyday surroundings in a new light," Woodham observed. "That's certainly one of our many goals."

*Art In Odd Places 2011: RITUAL* will run from October 1 to 10 along 14th Street from Avenue C to The Hudson River. Look for daily performance schedules and more information at [www.artinoddplaces.org](http://www.artinoddplaces.org).





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Features

## Art In Odd Places Festival Invades 14th Street

Tuesday, October 04, 2011

By [Marlon Bishop](#) : WNYC Culture Producer

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If you see anything strange along 14th Street this week, don't worry: it's probably just art.

All week long, the [Art in Odd Places festival](#) turns Manhattan's busy thoroughfare into a museum with 70 guerrilla art installations and performance pieces. The works range from laundry hanging on the sidewalk, to quilts made out of garbage that are displayed in bodega windows, to a tree that sings Buddhist chants.



A piece from the Art in Odd Places Festival, which brings guerrilla art installations and performance pieces to 14th street for one week each year. (Marlon Bishop/WNYC)

Then, there's an array of zany performances. For example, artist Marissa Mikelberg will walk a goat down the entire length of 14th Street on a leash this weekend. She said the point of the festival was to take art out of its traditional context.

"I've always felt drawn to 14th Street, it seems like a big hub for a lot of activity," she said. "It's a line of demarcation in the city. I think it's a good way of bringing the arts to that space so that more people can be spectators to art and artists."

"I've always felt drawn to 14th Street, it seems like a big hub for a lot of activity," she said. "It's a line of demarcation in the city. I think it's a good way of bringing the arts to that space so that more people can be spectators to art and artists."

Art In Odd Places was started by artist Ed Woodham in Atlanta in 1996. The festival moved to New York City in 2005, and since 2008 has happened each year on 14th Street.

The festival is produced in cooperation with a number of art institutions, including the Parsons The New School of Design, the Pratt Institute's Pratt Manhattan Gallery and the Museo Del Barrio. Artists are required to get permission to install or act out their pieces from the city's relevant authorities.

According to its press materials, the festival's mission is to, "Remind us that public spaces function as the epicenter for diverse social interactions and the unfettered exchange of ideas."

But many of the pieces are difficult to find, such as "Tweet Street," in which small magnets bearing twitter messages from New Yorkers sit on top of metal surfaces along 14th Street.

With "Get Lost!", artist Daniel Bejar has altered signage on crosstown L train platforms to reflect historical place names. (He changed "Downtown & Brooklyn" to read "Downtown & Breuckelen," for example.)

The description for the piece "Empirical Immanence" simply reads, "The project places small, text-based works into the urban environment to be discovered."

The full list of pieces that are part of the Art in Odd Places festival, which runs through Oct. 10, is available on the [festival's Web site](#).

Click below to see pictures of some of the work.



Marlon Bishop/WNYC

"Commit An Act of Domestic Terrorism" by Lois Weaver & Lori E. Seid sits on 14th Street between Avenue A and 1st Avenue.

◀ 1 of 9 ▶

Every morning during the festival, a woman hangs her laundry across 14th Street, while collecting stories from everyday people.



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Art

## Art in Odd Places Is Happening on 14th Street: An Interview With One of the Artists

By Jocelyn Silver Tue., Oct. 4 2011 at 6:43 PM

Comments (1)

Categories: Art, Art Stunts, Creativity, Jocelyn Silver, Manhattan, Things That Make You Go 'Hmm...'

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**Art in Odd Places** is an annual New York City exhibit featuring artists, doing, well, art in odd places. This year (the sixth in New York), the theme focuses on ritual, with 70 artists taking over 14th street from October 1st through the 10th to do hour-long projects on that theme each day. The goal of the project is to stretch the amounts of interaction and communication artists can have with the public by taking works beyond a traditional viewing platform. The projects themselves range from a hotline upon which New Yorkers can detail their favorite places in the five boroughs to live musical performances in Hudson River Park. We spoke with participating artist Gretchen Vitamvas to learn more.



**Do you have a specific project in mind, or are you doing something different every day?**

It's going to be the same piece every day, and it's called Automaton. The theme of the show is Ritual, and in my own personal work I've been exploring camouflage and clothing, and I got really interested in armor. So I've created this sort of robotic armor, and I'll just be this robotic automaton going about living regular city life. I'll ride the subway, go the store, get coffee, all that stuff. I'm using this armor, which is made out of vinyl advertisements, as a kind of protection from the city.

**Is the piece interactive?**

It's really not designed to be interactive. I'm going to keep to a sort of pre-programmed character. If people address me I'll talk back, but in general I'm just going to go about my route. I made cards that have a description of what the character is, my route, and about Art in Odd Places.

**And what is your route?**

I'm going to begin in Union Square and head over to Fourth Avenue, go to a Starbucks there, go to the bank. I'm going to walk along 14th street and get to Sixth Avenue, and take the subway back to Union Square. I'll probably do it twice per hour. On weekdays, it'll be 4:30 to 5:30, and on weekends, 3 to 4. This will be from October 1st through the 9th.



**How is the project being curated?**

There were two guest curators this year. One, Kalia Brooks, is the curator at the MOCADA, and the other, Trinidad Fombella, is the assistant curator at Museum del Barrio. Those two women chose the artists. There'll be a lot of projects going on, but 14th Street is pretty long. It'll be interesting to see which ones I run into on my route.

**Is this legal?**

In our initial meetings with all the artists, there are lawyers present to tell us what the boundaries are. Artists are encouraged to push the boundaries, or interact with the space the way any citizen would. There was an artist who wanted to decorate the sculptures in Union Square [Leon Reid IV's "Tourist-in-Chief"], and he had to jump through a lot of hoops to do that, even though it wasn't a permanent installation. They eventually let him do it, but at first it was kind of a problem. I think it's often an issue of talking to the local business, seeing what they're comfortable with.

I think it's a really good impulse, to keep street art happening. Art in Odd Places is a really great organization.

For more on Art in Odd Places 2011: RITUAL, see their website, [here](#).

[@silverjocelyn]

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## Art in Odd Places: FREE Art Festival on 14th St.

BY **CARRIE LAVEN** - **PROBLY PORNLESS** - OCTOBER 4, 2011 - NO COMMENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE, NEW YORK, SUBUR - TAGGED: 14TH STREET, ART, ART IN ODD PLACES, DANIEL BEJAR, FREE, FREE THEATER, GET LOST!, MTA, MTA SUBWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY, PERFORMANCE ART, PROTESTS, WHOLE FOODS



One of the mainstays of main thoroughfares in Manhattan, I mostly associate 14th Street with a convenient spot to meet someone off of the L train, a massive crowd outside of Whole Foods, or the disgusting chemical cheese smell that overpowers the entire block on which Taco Bell is located. However, this week all of the tourists, bridge-and-tunnel preteens, and Mexican Pizza-chomping crackheads that usually flood The Big 1-4 will have to share the street with performance artists, installations, and theatrical gloriosness. This week, Art in Odd Places sets up shop.

A wide variety of artistic performances and "interventions"—some of which, according to the event [website](#), are "participatory"—Art in Odd Places will run the entire length of 14th Street, from Avenue B all the way up to 11th Avenue. Some performances will deal with politics, religion or community, but all will center around the theme of "ritual." Highlights include *Get Lost!*, a project by Daniel Bejar in which he restores all MTA subway signage to what it would have looked and sounded like prior to colonial intervention of the area in 1609. If you're not in the mood to time travel, you can try out *I Call NY* in which participants call a hotline and leave voicemails about their favorite places in the city (which are then downloaded onto an [interactive map!](#)). With such a wide variety of participants, this festival should have something to interest every colorful character in the area.

Protesters may be [occupying Wall Street](#), but they're not the only badasses claiming the streets to make a statement this week. During October 1-10 feaks, theater nerds, and performance artists will all occupy 14th Street—head over to check it out!

Art in Odd Places  
October 1-10  
FREE  
14th St (between Ave. B and 11th Ave.)  
[Union Square]

Photo credit: [Art in Odd Places Blog](#)

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Leon Reid IV, *Tourist In Chief*, 2011

## "ART IN ODD PLACES" HITS NEW YORK STREETS Oct. 5, 2011

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If you've noticed a bathroom wall and sink installed on the sidewalk of 18th Street or a German woman wearing lederhosen shining shoes on 14th Street or trees covered in lipstick kisses lately, you've probably encountered one of the 60 artists who have created works for the annual Art in Odd Places festival in New York, Oct. 1-10, 2011.



Artist and teacher **Ed Woodham** launched the festival of performances, installations and interventions in the East Village and Lower East Side in 2005, and moved it to 14th Street between Avenue C and the Hudson River in 2008, where it has been held ever since. This year's installment, called **RITUAL**, focuses on "ideas of ceremony, habituation, myth, obsession, superstition and liturgy" -- a particularly apt theme for the commuter-dense district.

Probably attracting the most attention is Brooklyn artist **Leon Reid IV's** redecoration of the statue of **George Washington** in Union Square Park as so-called *Tourist in Chief*. Reid won hard-fought approval from the city's **Parks Department** to drape Washington with a camera and shopping bags, stick a map of the city in his outstretched arm and outfit him in an "I Heart NY" cap.

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# HYPERALLERGIC

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Street

## Finding Art in Odd Places Along 14th Street

by Allison Meyer on October 6, 2011

2 24

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"Passing Time" by Joanne Chek (all photos by author)

Art In Odd Places relies on a lot of serendipity, but when it happens it's wonderful. The annual art event is bringing small and large acts of ceremony with over 60 artists performing, installing, exhibiting and interacting all along 14th Street from October 1 to 10. Following this year's theme of *Ritual*, I set out this week to pace 14th street and the paths of Union Square each day to discover what artistic offerings would unexpectedly appear.





Joanna Chak with her project "Passing Time"

On Monday, I found [Joanna Chak](#), who was cheerfully waiting for people who might be waiting in Union Square. She had a silver tray of laser cut clocks in pin, magnet and earring form on which she had tallied how much time she had spent waiting in a year on such habitual things as transportation or groceries. By giving out these offerings to people who were themselves consumed in that mundane ritual of waiting, she was hoping to make people consider how much time is spent in this limbo state of anticipation. "Passing Time" was incredibly playful, although startling when I consider that my wait time for the subway might have amounted to over seven days last year.



"And Then I Said... (Bench Stories)" by Seth Caplan



Seth Caplan listening to "And Then I Said... (Bench Stories)"

Around the corner in the park, I spotted [Seth Caplan](#)'s "And Then I Said... (Bench Stories)," where two listeners could sit on either side of an audio installation that was playing a collection of stories about private connections in public spaces. Caplan said that he will also be installing the sound box on the subway platform of the uptown F/M train at 14th Street during part of *Art In Odd Places*. Union Square and the subway platform are far from serene, and I like the idea of having this quiet, transporting moment of listening closely to a story, whether it's from a stranger Caplan approached on the street or his mom.



*Was an artist here? ("Tree Kisses" left by Mary Ivy Martin)*



*More "Tree Kisses" by Mary Ivy Martin*

I was less lucky with encountering the artists themselves on Tuesday, although I caught signs they had been there. Actively, almost obsessively, scanning the corners of 14th Street for art had put me into a weird sort of state of mind where everything seemed like it could potentially be art or a subtle performance, but the heavy lipstick marks on a tree were a sure sign [Mary In Martin](#) had been there. In her project "Tree Kisses," she is kissing trees along 14th Street and leaving them ringed with the traces of her very affectionate interaction with nature. Later on Wednesday, I encountered another tree stained with her lips.



"1 Call NY" by Concerned New Yorkers

I also spotted a flyer from the Concerned New Yorkers for their project "[1 Call NY](#)." If you dial the number listed above (832-422-5569), you can leave a message with a story about your favorite place in the five boroughs. It will then be added to their online map, which already has places like Grant's Tomb and Prosperity Dumping. You can click on sound recordings to get the original message for each place, which gives it a lot more intimacy than similar projects, like, say, the [Stillspotting map](#) of NYC serenity that the Guggenheim is hosting.



"Bodhi Tree" by Patricia Cazoria



In case you don't hear the "Bodhi Tree," there is a sign

I had luck with the stationary projects on Wednesday. I found [Patricia Cazorla's](#) "Bodhi Tree," which has a sound installation in its branches that projects an OM sound "at random intervals, in an attempt to bring peace, awareness and an opportunity for introspection to New York City pedestrians."

I wasn't able to catch it in a meditative state, so I'm not sure if any pedestrians are tempted for a tranquil moment, but it did make me study for a time what is probably the prettiest tree on 14th Street. Why has Mary Ivy Martin not given it some love?



"Pilgrimage" by Laurie LeBreton

Right across from the "Bodhi Tree" in the window of the 14th Street Framing Gallery is "Pilgrimage" by [Laurie LeBreton](#), which has 310 paper figures arranged somewhat ominously. The project was inspired by a place in Laos where ancient pilgrims left thousands of statues of Buddha. In this case, LeBreton has left a mob of faceless silhouettes as an offering to the busy crowds of 14th Street. I appreciated the easy-to-find art from a writing standpoint, but felt that having an installation in the window of a gallery didn't have the same spontaneity as the other *Art In Odd Places* pieces.



"Prescribed Procedure for the Obsessive\_Compulsive" by Felix Morelo

Also easy to find, but much more ephemeral, was [Felix Morelo's](#) "Prescribed Procedure for the Obsessive\_Compulsive." The artist is drawing a path of chalk faces down 14th Street, with his ultimate goal being a trail from Tenth Avenue to Avenue C. I'd seen the faces in Union Square before, but was never really sure what they were about. Morelo states that the faces are partly "to make the public aware of how an obsessive-compulsive behavior can be a prescribed procedure," as well as the quick passing of time. I was left thinking the artist must have the sturdiest back in the world to bend down to scrawl a face every 12 inches on the sidewalk. Of all the pieces I've seen, it's the closest to an actual pilgrimage, bringing the ritual of repetition in with what I assume is a fair amount of sacrificial pain.



"Reflection" by Len Salvendy

[Leo Selvaggio](#) has a helpful project called "Reflection," where he is attaching mirrors to scaffolding. Although the piece is about vanity, I thought it was a nice public service, an improvement over the half glances people give to windows to see how disheveled they've become between their apartment and the subway to the street. Oh wait, I guess that constant need for self-realization in reflected surfaces is the point.

There are many more *Art In Odd Places* rituals taking place throughout the week and into the weekend, and I'm planning to continue my one-person procession to chance upon art. Although whoever runs the [@ArtInOddPlaces](#) twitter has been doing a great job this week in chronicling what's happening, so you don't have to go in on faith alone.

[Art In Odd Places](#) continues through October 10 on 14th Street from Avenue C to the Hudson River.

Tagged as: [art in odd places](#), [Concerned New Yorkers](#), [felix morelo](#), [joanna chak](#), [leurie lebreton](#), [mary ivy martin](#), [patricia cazoria](#), [seth caplan](#)

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## ART IN ODD PLACES: RITUAL



May Ivy Martin will offer "Tree Kisses" along Fourteenth St. as part of Art in Odd Places festival

### CEREMONY. HABITUATION. MYTH. OBSESSION. SUPERSTITION. LITURGY.

14th St. between Ave. C & the Hudson River

Through Monday, October 10

Admission: free

[www.artinoddplaces.org](http://www.artinoddplaces.org)

Now in its seventh year, Art in Odd Places lines all of Fourteenth St., from Ave. C in the east to the Hudson River in the west, with site-specific audio and visual installations, interventions, and performance-art projects right on the street. Continuing through October 10, this year's edition, curated by El Museo del Barrio's Trinidad Fombella and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art's Kalia Brooks, focuses on ritual, with works from more than sixty artists exploring the political and the personal, the individual and the community, the religious and the cultural. Scott Andresen's "Daily Portage," consisting of quilted detritus, can be found in shop windows between Ave. A & First Ave. Daniel Bejar adds history to subway signage for "Get Lost!" Tom Bogaert will create "Double Portraits" in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe each night from 5:00 to 7:00. Michael Borowski's "Wash Closely" mobile sink offers passersby the opportunity to cleanse themselves in public. Laurie LeBreton's "Pilgrimage" features more than three hundred handmade paper figures in the Fourteenth St. Framing Gallery re-creating a Buddhist cave pilgrimage in Laos. On October 6, Lawrence Graham-Brown will perform "Gimme Bak Ma Clothes!," referencing Thomas Dartmouth Rice of the American Minstrelsy Theater and the Jim Crow laws. From October 7 to 9, Marissa Mickelberg will take a goat for a walk in "Goat Walk." On October 8, Rob Andrews's "Union Square Clean" will involve forty people cloaked in black, gathering in the park to have their feet washed by strangers, while a tuxedoed Lulu LoLo will doff her chapeau to you in "A Tip of the Hat on 14th Street." On Saturday and Sunday, Alexa Hoyer, dressed in traditional Bavarian garb, will shine your shoes and take your picture in Union Square for "Just a German Shoeshine Girl," while Lois Weaver and Lori E. Seid will hang laundry and tell stories for "Commit an Act of Domestic Terrorism." And on Sunday, Julia Barbee will walk the length of Fourteenth St. combining prayer, perfume, and poetry for "Before/After Scenting New York." You might be used to seeing a lot of strange things on Fourteenth St., but be prepared for things to get a whole lot stranger during this fun festival.

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By Nick Pinto



**Relationships**  
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Getting Girlfriend  
Back

By Jen Doll



By Jen Doll

Art

## New Yorkers Reveal Their Favorite Places on I-Call-NY

By Jocelyn Silver Thu., Oct. 6 2011 at 9:30 AM

Categories: Art, Art Stunts, City Life, Jocelyn Silver



Concerned New Yorkers, an artist collective responsible for "Monty Burns for Mayor" and "Park 51", have launched a new project called I-Call-NY. They've put up flyers around Manhattan asking people to call in and leave a voicemail with a story about their favorite place in the city. Each message is then assembled into a virtual map. We spoke with Concerned New Yorkers Boris Rasin and Kenny Komer to learn more.

**How long has the project gone on?**

**Boris Rasin:** I guess for a few months. In the beginning of the summer we put up some flyers. We asked people to tell us about their favorite place and why. We kind of wanted to revamp the question; now it's "tell us a story about your favorite place."

**What kind of response have you gotten?**

We've only gotten a handful of responses in the past few days. One person talked about how the Verrazano Bridge is a place in New York that seems kind of ominous, but it's actually a place to escape the city. People call in to talk about their favorite places; sometimes those are obvious and make sense, but sometimes they don't. People can like places for really personal reasons that might not make total sense to someone else.



**What's the goal of the project?**

It's sort of like an oral history/interactive kind of experiment. We want to make user generated content. The end result will be to have an interactive map of stories that people can share with each other. You know, leave a message, and take something back from it.

**Kenny Komer:** The initial desire of this project was to create a sort of user-created map that wasn't necessarily filtered through magazines or editors or any kind of normal way, to find out about cool places in New York, because I think it's always getting watered down.

**Have there been any particularly popular places?**

**Boris Rasin:** People like Coney Island. But for the most part people like to think of an original place. When we first started, people were pretty reticent to reveal their places, because they wanted to keep them private. Like, say I wanted to talk about a really small park on Hudson Street that I've maybe seen 10 people in. I would be afraid to talk about that to potentially hundreds of people who might start coming to it.

It's an interesting project because you're asking people to reveal places that are so secret and special to them. People in New York are really private about the places they love.

**Kenny Komer:** Each one has been pretty unique; there hasn't been any kind of trend. It's gone from a furniture depot on the Bowery, to someone's apartment, to places in Staten Island. It's been sort of all over the place, and the more responses we get, the more varied we get. We've put up flyers all over Manhattan, and we'd like to put them up in more boroughs.

**Any plans for future projects?**

I don't know yet, maybe more specific questions. Maybe more personal questions. We wanted to have a question that people would respond to. We really focused on making people comfortable enough to call in, even paying a lot of attention to the flyer. In the end we decided against putting our Concerned New Yorkers logo on the flyers; we were afraid if we did it would look like more of an ad. We made it look really homemade, and people have responded to that.

I think the interesting thing about this project is that everything was free at our disposal. We used Google Maps, Google voice. And we made these old form flyers, the way people would before Craigslist. We're kind of creating a virtual map.

**Boris Rasin:** In a funny way I think we're not getting enough phone calls because the "I" looks like a "1". [ed: It's an uppercase "i"]

*I-Call-NY* is done in conjunction with [Art in Odd Places](#). Call (832) I-Call-NY to talk about your favorite place in the city.

[@silverjocelyn]



# DOLL MAKERS MUSE

*Articles, Tidbits and Discoveries  
for Mixed Media Endeavors in Doll Artistry*

Art Doll Blog of Rivkah Mizrahi

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2011

## • Art in Odd Places Festival - NYC



My husband came out of the bathroom laughing this morning. He was listening to the news in there, and

apparently there is an art show happening in Manhattan this weekend.

Of all things, a woman wants to walk a goat down 14th street. Wow.

That got me thinking. It's certainly been a while since I've run into any "artsy fartsy" stuff, now that I'm out of my element and into the big city. But the goat "exhibit" got my attention.

I must admit, things are different here. I suppose a lot of it has to do with the fact that I now live in a [typical] small NY apartment with less than half the space to create than I'm used to. I also set my mind to finishing a degree in accounting, which will be done in December. But I also believe that my artistic mindset has actually shifted somewhat. When you think of art in NYC, I believe that people think mainly of paintings and classic art forms, and less of "crafty" art like doll making (and goats!) I don't want to comment on this woman's form of artistic expression, but I can't wait to get back to creating in my own medium. And like my husband, I did get a nice little chuckle this morning!

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## PARSONS PARTNERS WITH ART IN ODD PLACES FOR FESTIVAL

Posted on September 30, 2013 in [Uncategorized](#)

This month, the Urban programs at Parsons The New School for Design will host a number of events as part of Art in Odd Places 2013: RITUAL, an annual festival of public urban art interventions. Art in Odd Places (AiOP) presents visual and performance art in public spaces with an annual festival each October along 14th Street in Manhattan, NYC from Avenue C to the Hudson River.

On Saturday, October 1, Parsons will host the festival's keynote address by Linda Mary Montano. Titled *Glandathon Workshop*, Montano will lead audience members in an experience of the seven energy centers of the body. The workshop will take place on at 2 p.m. in the Anna-Maria and Steven Kellen Auditorium, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, 66 Fifth Avenue, and is free and open to the public. Space is limited, and participants dressed in one color of the rainbow will be admitted first.

On Saturday, October 8, Parsons will host *Pseudo Public Space*, a panel discussion interrogating the politics of public space and the artists' relationship to it, featuring Tania Duvergne, Sara Reisman, Leon Reid IV, and Hrag Vartanian. Building on the idea that cities and urban spaces have become increasingly commodified, and that access to public space and resources has been limited to particular social groups, the panel asks if artists working in a city can create ruptures in the status quo and enable innovative forms of civic and social activism. This event will be held at 2 p.m. in Wollman Hall, 65 West 11th Street, Fifth Floor, and is free and open to the public.

Located at the central point of the programming, Parsons will serve as a hub for the festival, which runs from October 1-10. Maps and program guides are available in the lobby of the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at 66 Fifth Avenue, as well as several businesses along 14th street.

For more information, visit the School of Design Strategies magazine. (link to <http://sds.parsons.edu/>)



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011

Sherry Aliberti's "Cocoon", A Ritual In Honor Of The Sunset For Art In Odd Places Festival 2011







Last Saturday, a performance art called "Cocoon" was presented along 14th Street in Lower Manhattan. Part of this year's "Art In Odd Places" festival, this is a ritual in honor of the sunset. Traveling from the east side of Avenue C towards the Hudson River Park on the west side, the three Cocoons journeyed across the island to gather at the Sunset. The performance will be repeated on October 9. The Procession will start at 12 PM and the Liturgy will be at 5:30-8 PM. The Liturgy will take place at 14th Street and Avenue C. The Procession will begin at the Hudson River Park. The public is encouraged to interact with the performers.

Sherry Aliberti's background in architecture and yoga inspires her to study the body as a structure. Influenced by Martha Graham and others, a fabric enclosure abstracts the figural form and provides freedom for the performer to become a morphing entity, expressing large gestures and movements for their own personal experience. (from AiOP website)

## Art in Odd Places Festival to Turn 14th Street Strange

EVENTS NEWS | ADMIN | OCTOBER 2, 2011 10:54 AM



**“El Santero” by Alejandro Guzmán is “a physical appellation of metaphysical being, exploring the fastidious manifestations of human nature, actions ... and materialism,” the artist said. (Art in Odd Places)**

MANHATTAN — For the next 10 days, Union Square street performers and new subway cell phone service won't be the weirdest things on 14th Street.

Dozens of projects and performances by offbeat public artists will be on show on the thoroughfare from the East River to the Hudson River admittance on Saturday.

“68 artists, one long street, 10 days — one night to kick off the festival,” the festival’s Chimup page reads.

This seventh incarnation of the festival devoted to “the sacred and profane of everyday events in the ... urban background” focuses on ritual, ceremony and superstition, according to a proclamation.

Art fans and unsuspecting pedestrians may see a person completely roofed by fabric and tree twigs, subway signs altered to contain past place names like “Breuckelen,” an audio installation on city benches and a wish rank.

The festival, which was curated by Trinidad Fombella of El Museo del Barrio and Kalia Brooks of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art, is scheduled to kick off Saturday daylight with an installation on the statue of George Washington in Union Square Park.

Artist Leon Reid IV will outfit the statue with an “I [heard] NY” cap, a camera, a subway map and shopping bags, transforming it into “Tourist-in-Chief,” according to a proclamation by AIOP.

“What this project does, and what Art in Odd Places hopes to do, is to see the city and its normal surroundings in a new light,” AIOP founder and boss Ed Woodham said in the proclamation.

The installation from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, which the Parks Sphere at the start refused to approve, will be the first time the statue has been used in a work of art, according to the proclamation.

A full schedule of performances is available on the festival’s website.

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## BEST OF NY

# NYC's 6 Best Fall Street Fairs And Festivals

October 7, 2011 9:00 AM

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Tired of tube socks and fried funnel cakes? Scare up some Halloween fun, participate in art walks, show off your pets or learn some fascinating New York history instead. These autumn happenings are just the right antidote for those pedestrian street fairs. *By Sherry Mazzocchi*

### Art in Odd Places

Oct. 1 – 10  
Along 14th St.  
from Ave. C to the Hudson River, NYC  
[artinoddplaces.org](http://artinoddplaces.org)

This art festival, organized in collaboration with Parsons, [El Museo del Barrio](#), Theatre Lab and others, features free visual and performance art in public spaces all along 14th St. Pose for artist Nobutaka Aozaki for the Smiley Bag Project in Union Square or listen to the Bodhi Tree sculpture between 7th and 8th emit sounds of OM at random intervals in an attempt to bring nirvana to New York City streets.



(credit: Art In Odd Places)

# RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART



## Pilgrimage in Odd Places!

Check out artist Julie Puttgen's *14th Street Pilgrimage*. These amazing tsa-tsas will be migrating around 14th Street as part of the Art in Odd Places festival (Oct 1-10). If you see one send us a photo!

From Julie's website ([www.turtlenosedsnake.com](http://www.turtlenosedsnake.com)):

Tsa-tsas are miniature versions of Buddhist *stupas*, or markers of sacred space. In Bhutan, where I bought the mold I use to make my tsatsas, they are usually produced in batches of 108, to mark an important occasion or intention, and then carefully placed around temples and natural landscapes as offerings. In setting out 108 tsatsas along 14th Street, I say: mindful attention to small features of the urban landscape is a catalyst for experiencing sacred space, and – more radically – for causing it to occur.

I am discovering that 14th St has a lot of auspicious tsatsa spots, including ornate ledges in the doorways of the old city; disused corners of Catholic facades; utilitarian structures like standpipes and phone booths; and the hands of a heroio-sized Buddha and Superman who are practically neighbors on the same block.

A story from the High Line:

## About Us

The Rubin Museum of Art explores the rich art and cultural legacies of the Himalayas, presenting paintings, textiles, and sculpture from Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan, as well as those from the larger Himalayan cultural sphere which includes India, China, Mongolia, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. The relevance and universality of ideas found in Himalayan art are illuminated through cross-cultural and contemporary art exhibitions, acclaimed educational and public programs.

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## Rubin Screensavers



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Download all 4 screensavers/wallpapers today, and bring a little bit of the Rubin Museum home with you. Designed by Andrea Pemberton.

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## TimeOut Loves Us!

Recommended by  
**TimeOut**

Hello!

I found this *tsatsas* below the highline on 14th st. Taking the elevator up I noticed it outside the yellow glass, and rode the elevator back down to check it out. I love finding things and this was a wonderful, day-making, sky-brightening find! I have number 28 out of 108, and plan to set it out somewhere new.

Thanks for the well wishes!

Aviva

---

Art in Odd Places 2011: RITUAL is guest curated by Kalia Brooks, MoCADA Director of Exhibitions and Trinidad Fombella, El Museo Del Barrio Exhibitions Manager/Assistant Curator. Festival Producer, Lucia Wark Meister. Founder/Director, Ed Woodham.

Art in Odd Places (AiOP) aims to present art that stretches the boundaries of communication in the public realm by presenting artworks in all disciplines outside the confines of traditional public space regulations. AiOP reminds us that public spaces function as the epicenter for diverse social interactions and the unfettered exchange of ideas.

[www.artinoddplaces.org](http://www.artinoddplaces.org)

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### LAST CHANCE TO SEE *PILGRIMAGE & FAITH*



*Pilgrimage & Faith: Buddhism, Christianity & Islam*

Closes October 24, 2011 | Visit: [rmanyc.org/pilgrimage](http://rmanyc.org/pilgrimage) for more info!

October 6, 2011

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# Buddhist Art News

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## tsatsas a 14th street pilgrimage:

Posted on [October 6, 2011](#) | [Leave a comment](#)



This is a project by my friend Julie Püttgen. Follow the link for many, many more pictures, plus updates from subsequent days. – Buddhist art news

new york, october 1-10, 2011

Tsa-tsas are miniature versions of Buddhist stupas, or markers of sacred space. In Bhutan, where I bought the mold I use to make my tsatsas, they are usually produced in batches of

108, to mark an important occasion or intention, and then carefully placed around temples and natural landscapes as offerings. In setting out 108 tsatsas along 14th Street, I say: mindful attention to small features of the urban landscape is a catalyst for experiencing sacred space, and – more radically – for causing it to occur.

This ongoing project follows in the footsteps of other experiments I've done in sacred-ordinary space, especially the [100 Names Project](#) and [Becoming the City that Planted Trees](#). There's an old Zen story:

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*A teacher is dying, and a student despairs over this fact. The student asks what she can possibly do to honor the teacher. "Build me a seamless monument," the teacher says.*

Meaning: live in such a way that sacred and ordinary are one. Live in such a way that there are no secrets. Live in such a way that there are no unimportant places or people.

If you have found one of the 108 NY tsatsas during the course of the Art in Odd Places festival, I hope you'll take time to send me a story or a photograph, by emailing [mustaphaputtgen \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:mustaphaputtgen@gmail.com). I'll try to add new photos and messages to this page at least once a day (October 1-10, 2011). You can also add your voice to the project by [uploading your tsatsa story via the broadcaster website](#). You'll need to set up an account to do this – but it's free & easy, so why not? Make sure to use the tag [nysatsas](#) with your story, and to pin it roughly where you found your tsatsa on the map.

For more information about the project (& my personal history as a recidivist pilgrim), you can listen to my [handy 3-minute project audio guide](#). Enter "aiop2011" as your search tag, and scroll down till you see A 14th Street Pilgrimage. For more about the festival, go to [AiOP's excellent website](#), which has all kinds of information about the artists & projects.

I dedicate this project to the good of people traveling the streets of New York. May all your journeys be for the good, and may you be well.

[\[link\]](#)

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# 7 INCHES

NEW REVIEWS EVERY DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

Live! From 14th Street! with Art in Odd Places and Masterdisk



Hey there, just wanted to let everyone know about this project happening tomorrow on 14th and 10th ave, NYC. At 2PM in the park between the west side highway and 10th ave, right in the center of the grassy hill there we will be cutting a record, live. A while back I went to Masterdisk in midtown to check out their mastering facilities and learn a little bit about what goes into cutting the lathe master that gets plated and stamps out the records that we buy in a store. Checking out the lathe cutting room with Alex and watching him cut a record in front of us was pretty amazing. After seeing a tweet from them around the same time about wishing they could throw the lathe cutter into a truck and cut a live record... well that got us thinking... couldn't we live stream a performance to the lathe cutting room a few blocks away instead?

I LIKE 7" S BECAUSE THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO IS LISTEN TO THEM - JOHN WEISE

My Photo



JASON  
BROOKLYN

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At the same time Art in Odd Places was having their annual public art project across 14th Street and having worked with that great festival before we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to attempt this under the umbrella of AiOP with the help of Masterdisk and 4 great bands.

Since this project is about communication and what happens in the translation between technologies we then wanted to tie in some of those recording landmarks with the bands pieces. Matt asked Kevin from Animal Hospital to work with the earliest recorded audio from Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville's phonograph. A demented lo-fi scratchy tune from possibly Édouard-Léon himself.

I talked to Pat from Ashcan Orchestra to listen to the first radio broadcast off the coast of MA in 1906 to see what they'll come up with.

Finally we gave our friends in Soccer Mom (10<sup>th</sup> out on sweaters and pearls!) an image of the voyager disk for inspiration. Matt suggested we could go one step further and call in a band to play over the phone and that's when we thought of The Hussy in WI.

The three bands will play live for each side of the record and Matt and our trusty technicians/photographers Jim Manning and Rob Coshow will capture it all, while I'm at Masterdisk with engineer Alex DeTurk making sure it's coming through and watching the record being cut. When it's finished I'll jump in a cab and head down to the park to listen to the record with the bands and anyone who decides to show up.

I'll be posting pieces of the final audio and some video of the performance in the coming weeks. I'm excited, the weather looks like it's going to hold out, and it should be a pretty crazy spectacle on a Saturday afternoon. Go check out these bands, they're all super great guys for working with us, and I hope it's as exciting for them.

THESE ARE THE ELITE MEMBERS OF THE DOUBLE PLATINUM 7INCH CLUB



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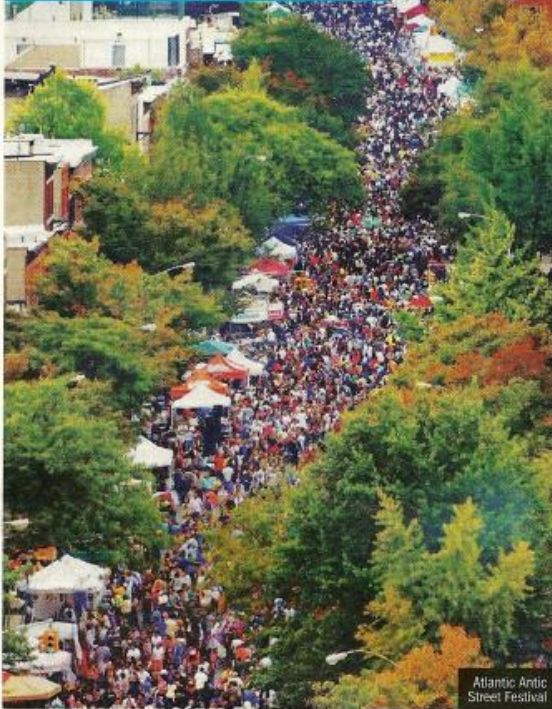
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Event Manager: Dan Burns, Exhibitions Manager/Producer: Gordon, Festival Producer: Leah  
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# This Week in New York

Edited by Amy Platt • [thistweek@timeoutny.com](mailto:thistweek@timeoutny.com)



Atlantic Antic Street Festival

## Best of the fests

The city is overrun with fun festivals this weekend—let us help you decide which ones to hit. By **Sylvia Mendez**

### The Ninth Annual New

Among the glitter-bedecked stars

### Art in Odd Places Saturday 1–October 10



Art in Odd Places

**The gist:** Keep an eye on 14th Street—the thoroughfare turns into a massive alfresco gallery during this annual arts bonanza. More than 60 artists contributed pieces that examine the theme of ritual to the event, which was curated by Trinidad Pombella of El Museo del Barrio and Kalia Brooks of MoCADA.

**Don't miss:** We like Daniel Bejar's *Get Lost!*, in which the artist will change subway maps and signs to reflect what they may have looked like before the city was colonized in 1609. Some pieces call for audience participation: In *Union Square Clean*, by Rob Andrews, bystanders are invited to clean the feet of black-clad strangers, who are strategically placed throughout the park.

**Where to go:** 14th St between Ave C and the Hudson River ([artinoddplaces.org](http://artinoddplaces.org)). Times vary; free.

### Chile Pepper Fiesta Saturday 1



Chile Pepper Fiesta

**The gist:** Test your capsaicin-ingesting prowess at this annual affair, during which spicy-food providers (including Brooklyn Salsa Company, Sour Puss Pickles and Bhut

bred cook-off whiz Adrian Ashby and blogging team the Brooklynauts) competing for fiery glory.

**Where to go:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 900 Washington Ave at Eastern Pkwy, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-623-7200, [bbg.org](http://bbg.org)). 11am–6pm; \$10–15.

### 27th Annual Medieval Festival at Fort Tryon Park Sunday 2



Medieval Festival

**The gist:** Could there be a more appropriate venue than Fort Tryon Park—home to the Cloisters, which is devoted to art from the Middle Ages—for this olde-tyme fests? We think not. Different areas of the green space transform into a medieval market, filled with artisans and performers in Medieval Times-worthy attire.

**Don't miss:** Watch as craftsmen create tools used during the Middle Ages, including a blacksmith hammering out swords and armor. Stick around to see four knights in full armor whale on each other, *A Knight's Tale*-style, during a late-afternoon jousting match.

**Where to go:** Fort Tryon Park, Margaret Corbin Circle, Fort Washington Ave at Cabrini Blvd (212-795-1600, [whdc.org](http://whdc.org)). Noon–6pm; free.

### Atlantic Antic Street Festival Sunday 2

**The gist:** The busy Brooklyn artery closes down for this outdoor extravaganza, billed as New York City's largest street fair. But there's more to see here than dudes hawking socks and Mozzarepas: Among the diverse offerings are live music performances, a Uniqlo pop-up shop



MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

"Human Rites", an Interruptive Spectacle by Edith Raw for Art in Odd Places Festival 2011







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**A**rt in Odd Places takes on RITUAL as theme this year. The festival features a wide variety of actions, participatory performances, theatrical presentations, public installations, and small and large-scale interventions all of which revolve around the concept of ritual. One of the participants this year is Edith Raw who intends to stir up the energy of the snake: eroticism, death and rebirth, transformation and recreation of self in service of community, based on the Guaguanco spiritual and rhythmic tradition of Afro-Cuban culture. Captured in the images above were part of her performance yesterday along 14th Street. Interruption is essential to the task of being an artist in this era since society is routinely distracted and informed by pop culture. Raw's performance serves to remind us of our mortality, humanity and the universal law that links us.

The artist is originally from Chicago. Her visual art, writing and performance have been seen in Chicago, New York City and Albuquerque.

Information from the Art in Odd Places website.

Posted by Noel Y. C. at 10:13 AM



Labels: Afro-Cuban culture, Art in Odd Places, Edith Raw, Guaguanco tradition

Reactions:  funny (0)  interesting (0)  cool (0)

# Artopia

John Perreault's art diary

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## PUBLIC ART COVER-UP! MOCK ART TREND?

October 11, 2011 By John Perreault

ARTOPIAnews

LENIN DESECRATED IN BULGARIA. AND IN NYC GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE ASTOR PLACE CUBE. WHO'S TO BLAME?

Is the public so disgusted by outdoor sculpture that even temporary defacement is cheered? Who's to blame? Soon not even works by Calder or Oldenburg will be safe from mockery.



Olek, the Polish-born crochet artist, made a cheerful one-day coverlet for Tony Rosenthal's *Alamo*, that point-balanced black cube at Astor Place that each new generation of Cooper Union art students discovers can be rotated with a little bit of muscle. The cube itself is fussy. The rotation adds a populist note to Astor Place. But not as populist as Olek's temporary improvement. [LINK](#)





In **Sofia, Bulgaria**, citizens awakened to see a Soviet-era monument transformed by paint into a paean to comic book heroes. The base of this ugly piece of work was scrawled with the phrase "in step with the times." Was the artist provocateur making fun of Socialist Realism or of Western

Pop Culture? Or indicating the superficiality, the mythological basis, and thus the equivalency of both? [LINK](#)



For "Art in Odd places," a 10 -day art extravaganza (Oct.1 -10) along 14th Street in NYC, **Leon Reid IV** somehow gained permission to equip a bronze statue of George Washington with a subway map and shopping bags for one day, re-Christening the Union Square statue *Tourist-in-Chief*. Previously this statue has been invisible, so I am not sure this was a service to the public or not. [LINK](#). Story lead: [ArtNet.com](#)

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Es un buen momento para descubrir los intereses de tus hijos y hacerlos realidad.



Sociedad nueva york



## Un muro de los deseos en las calles de Nueva York

12/10/11

IMÁGENES



Un muro de los deseos en las calles de Nueva York



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La Speaker's Corner de la calle 14, en Union Square, es un espacio donde históricamente los ciudadanos podían manifestar sus ideas sin censura. Y fue el lugar elegido por la artista argentina Liana Strasberg para instalar su proyecto Union Square Wall, como parte del festival Art in Odd Places (Arte en lugares extraños). Allí construyó una pared con cajas de madera, entre cuyas rendijas los transeúntes podían dejar papeles con sus deseos y pedidos, como un modo de extrapolar al ámbito urbano el tradicional rito del Muro de los Lamentos. La idea es que luego sean leídos en público con un megáfono, para conectarlo con la historia del lugar donde fue instalado.

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Culture | October 13, 2011, 5:10 PM

## Art in Odd Places: ‘Something Outrageous’ on 14th Street

By CHRISTINE JENKINS, 20 Cooper Square



From Oct. 1 to 10, the annual Art in Odd Spaces festival turned all of 14th Street into an impromptu art gallery and performance space. Watch the audio slideshow above to hear more about the festival from its founder, Ed Woodham, who started AIOP in Atlanta in 1996 and then brought it to the East Village and Lower East Side as “a response to the dwindling of public space and personal civil liberties,” according to [the website](#).

*Additional photography by Heather Holland, Sasha Sumner, and Art in Odd Places.*

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## FYI: You Can't Dress Up NYC Statues To Look Like Tourists



Brooklyn artist Leon Reid IV launched a [Kickstarter campaign](#) this month in the hopes of dressing up the George Washington statue in Union Square (as he once did with Abraham Lincoln overseas). Specifically, Reid wanted to add props like an "I ♥ NY" hat, a subway map, and local shopping bags to make "a comic reflection of New York's tourist industry and spark public curiosity as to Washington's role in New York City history." Art In Odd Places was hoping to include the piece in their festival in October, and called Reid's work "very intelligent." But the city doesn't think so.

According to [DNAinfo](#), Reid's Tourist-in-Chief statue isn't gonna happen, because the Parks Department doesn't allow dressing up public statues! (Although Gandhi seemed to like his knitwear [last year](#)). The agency says they've officially denied Reid's request, but Reid has raised more money than he hoped to via his campaign, so maybe he still has plans to follow through... for now, he's not talking.



📷 "Tourist-in-Chief" Public art installation by Leon Reid IV by Leon Reid IV

ART

## The Observer Talks to Leon Reid IV, Brooklyn Artist Behind Proposed "Tourist in Chief"

Tweet 7 Like 5 +1 2 PRINT By Elise Knutsen 3/30 2:40pm



Leon Reid IV's Proposal for "Tourist in Chief"

Leon Reid IV is a man on a mission. A mission to decorate the George Washington statue in Washington Square Park.

Mr. Reid has been petitioning to stage one of his "statue adornment" installations, starring the Union Square equestrian bronze, for the Art in Odd Places festival this fall. But don't expect to see a tricorn hat or American flag on this version of old George: Mr. Reid's hopes to transform the first president into a tourist, complete with an I ♥ NY hat, a camera, and a giant map. Funny, right?

Not everyone thinks so. Mr. Reid has jumped through a whole host of hoops trying to get his project approved by various city authorities.

Last night, however, Mr. Reid cleared a major hurdle in the bureaucratic process. Appearing before the Community Board yesterday evening clad in the requisite Brooklyn bowtie, Mr. Reid presented his case and showed the board some of his previous projects (including an Abe Lincoln statue with a do-rag, Yankees hat and necklace in the shape of Africa). The community board voted unanimously in favor of the project. An hour before Mr. Reid's presentation, however, the Parks department called the Community Board and implored them to reject the plan.

Mr. Reid says he doesn't know why the city park authorities would take such a strong stand against an innocent art installation, which, for the record, is only slated to adorn the George Washington statue for thirteen hours on a single day. "I have no idea," Mr. Reid told *The Observer* when asked why the parks department seemed to have it out for him.

He claims that, having submitted his application and \$25 fee to the parks department, he is still awaiting an official response. "They owe me a written response," he said. Mr. Reid emphasized that his work was based around public property, and that the parks department could not reject his project based on their personal artistic sensibilities. "They don't have the luxury to deny an application based on that," he added.

Mr. Reid hopes that his project can be both amusing and informative. An information kiosk explaining both George Washington's historical presence in New York and the art installation itself would be positioned next to the statue. "I don't think it's a crime to inform people about George Washington," Mr. Reid said flatly.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reid is calling the parks department out on what he says is clear cut hypocrisy. Last year, NBC attempted to promote "The Cape" by draping several city statues (with the Park department's blessing) in black drapes. NBC made a contribution to the parks department, thanking them for the partnership. Too bad the show tanked.

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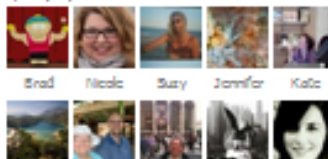
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Art Stunts

## George Washington Tourist-in-Chief Project, Denied by City, Gets Support from Community Board

By Zoe So Tue., Aug. 30 2011 at 2:37 PM

Categories: Art Stunts, Dead Presidents, Fuckin' Tourists, Historical Shit, The Parks, Zoe So

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George Washington, of Union Square, was a superhero for a few days in January. He and fellow statues around the city donned capes to promote the premiere of an NBC show about a cop-turned-superhero. George held a basket of flowers once, too, for Arbor Day in 2008. But the City of New York Parks & Recreation Department won't let him play New York tourist for a day, as part of the Art in Odd Places festival. Leon Reid IV, the artist, is befuddled at the department's decision. Last night, after hearing a presentation by Reid, equally befuddled Community Board 5 members decided to lend their support to the project.



When Leon Reid IV submitted a special events application for his "Tourist-in-Chief" project as a part of the Art in Odd Places festival, the Parks Department told him to present his idea to the CB5's Parks committee, which had a meeting scheduled for last night. Reid said someone from the department also called him last week with a few follow-up questions; the application form only provides enough space for a brief explanation.

The department has not directly issued a denial to Reid. But, according to CB5 Parks committee chair Joseph Hagelmann, in advance of last night's meeting the department informed the community board via email that they planned to reject the project and would be letting Reid know soon in writing. They did not provide reasons why. (The department had [already confirmed to press earlier that the project would be blocked.](#))

The transformation of Washington into NYC tourist, as Reid envisions, would need several items, including a camera, subway map, shopping bags, and an I heart NY cap. Reid said the props, made of cloth, plastic, and foam, and hung with light fishwire as needed, would "weigh no more than the birds that land on Washington's head." Reid would be present at the site during the 13 hours on October 1 that Washington would play tourist. There would also be an information stand explaining George Washington's connection with New York. Reid has raised more than \$3,000 for the project via Kickstarter, and has started making the props.

Reid has done another similar project, when [he dressed a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Manchester, England for the installation "True Yank."](#)

One committee member said the project sounded like "a great idea," a sentiment echoed by his colleagues. "A lot of people don't know why Washington's in Union Square," he said, and later added, "The Parks Department has allowed these statues to be draped...I don't see why we should just rubber stamp" their decision. The community board decided, unanimously, to approve Reid's application and to seek explanations from the Parks Department.

A Parks representative, in attendance at last night's meeting to present on another installation at Union Square, declined to answer questions from CB5, deferring to the Special Events department instead. We've been told the Parks Department will be issuing a statement shortly -- stay tuned!

*Go to [Runnin' Scared](#) for all our latest news coverage.*

---

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**ART: Brooklyn Artist's Touristy Makeover of Union Square GW Statue Approved (and Denied!)**

Posted by [Benjamin Sutton](#) on [Wed, Aug 21, 2011 at 11:33AM](#)



Rendering of Leon Reid IV's "Tourist in Chief."

Despite being denied a permit by the Parks Department, Brooklyn-based sculptor and street artist Leon Reid IV took his proposal for the equestrian George Washington statue in Union Square before Manhattan's Community Board 5 on Monday, where it was given unanimous approval.

The temporary installation, which would last the duration of Art in Odd Places' 2011 festival all along 14th Street titled *RITUAL* (October 1-10), involves adorning Henry Kirke Brown's 1865 sculpture with a set of custom-made props like shopping bags, a baseball hat and tourist map. The Parks Department seems to favor a different sculptor for Union Square.

In an email, Reid wrote to us:

I presented my project before Community Board 5. The Parks Department called 1 hour before the meeting to tell the board that The Parks will "deny" my permit. As a result, the Board voted unanimously in favor of my project. The Board is now requesting the Department to deliver an explanation as to why the project is to be denied.

Reid's presentation to CB5 can be seen in two parts ([here](#) and [here](#)), and includes other instances of the Parks Department approving temporary modifications of city sculptures—including, most embarrassingly, as part of a marketing campaign for a TV show about superheroes. Meanwhile Reid is already working on the tourist props for the temporary installation—pending Parks Department approval of course.



Leon Reid and an assistant working on sculptural elements for "Tourist in Chief."

## MURRAY HILL AND GRAMERCY

See more: Lifestyle & Entertainment, Lower East Side & East Village, Midtown, Murray Hill & Gramercy, George Washington, Leon Reid IV, Union Square, Union Square Park, approval, Community Board 5, controversy, exhibit, explanation, George Washington statue, meeting, Parks Department, public art, rejection, tourist, vote

### CB5 Backs Artist's Bid To Dress George Washington Statue as Tourist

August 31, 2011 9:47am | By Jill CoMin, DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

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The proposed "Tourist in Chief" by artist Leon Reid IV. (Leon Reid IV)

Apparently, the city frowns on dressing up public statues in the name of art.

But at a public hearing Monday night in front of Community Board 5's Parks Committee, Reid argued the city has frequently allowed the adornment of numerous statues, including George Washington himself, who was made to hold a bouquet of flowers and wear a carnation on his lapel back on Arbor Day in 2006, according to a photo on the Parks Department website.

The department also allowed NBC to dress 30 historic statues around the city with black capes this winter, including Washington, Sir Walter Scott and Eleanor Roosevelt, to promote the network's now-cancelled show "The Cape."

"The inspiration for 'Tourist-in-Chief' comes from a long line of statue embellishments," Reid told the board of the installation, which he said is intended "to make Washington a more relatable figure to the contemporary audience" and inform the public about Washington's place in New York history — two ideas that received broad endorsement from the board.

MIDTOWN — A community board's parks committee voted unanimously in favor of an artist's proposal to make over the statue of George Washington in Union Square — and demanded the city explain why it rejected the plan.

As DNAinfo first reported last month, the New York City Parks Department rejected a bid by Brooklyn-based public artist Leon Reid IV to dress the giant bronze statue of the Founding Father like a stereotypical New York tourist, complete with an "I ♥ New York" hat, over-sized camera and a bundle of shopping bags, for 13 hours on October 1.



PLAY VIDEO (Flickr/ArtPublic)

"The inspiration for 'Tourist-in-Chief' comes from a long line of statue embellishments," Reid told the board of the installation, which he said is intended "to make Washington a more relatable figure to the contemporary audience" and inform the public about Washington's place in New York history — two ideas that received broad endorsement from the board.

To quell concerns that the installation might damage the statue's finish, Reid said he plans to use a lift to attach the dress-up items, which are made of foam-board, so they "weigh no more than the birds that land on Washington's head."

The proposal garnered praise from board members, who felt the installation's short duration and historical mission made it more than worthwhile.

"I think it's a great idea," said committee member David Golab, who noted he thought the project was a great way to engage people about history and added the board has a long history of supporting the arts.

He and others said they were dumbfounded as to why the city would reject the plan, which is supposed to be part of the seventh annual [Art in Odd Places festival](#) in October.

"I don't understand," Golab said. "This looks like a reasonable proposal."

Committee chair Joseph Hagelmann said the board was notified by the Parks Department just hours before the meeting that it had already decided to reject the bid.

"It's very interesting that there's been an historical precedent at this statue and others in the city," said Hagelmann ahead of the vote, which was unanimous in favor of the installation.

The committee also voted to request an explanation from the Parks Department, in writing, outlining its reasons for rejecting the bid.

The community board only has an advisory role in the decision, with the city having the final say.

The Parks Department has raised concerns about damaging the 19th century statue as well as safety, but has been vague about the specific risks the installation poses.

"All public art installation requests go through a process, and this one did as well. While we welcome requests, we cannot accommodate them all," a spokesperson said in a statement Tuesday.

Reid, a self-described history buff, said he hadn't yet received official word from the city about the status of his application, but said he can't understand why it wouldn't be allowed.

"This is public property. The Parks Department doesn't have the luxury to reject a permit just because they think it's disrespectful," he said after his presentation, acknowledging that some of his projects have been criticized in the past.

But Reid said the objections have only furthered his mission by drawing more attention to the statue.

"I like causing attention," he said.

Earlier in the meeting, the Parks Department gave a separate presentation to the board about an art project it has already approved for Union Square: Miquel Barcelo's "Elephanta," a giant bronze statue of an elephant balancing on his trunk, which is set to open September 13.

*The full board will weigh in on both proposals at its next monthly meeting on Thurs., Sept. 8, at 6 p.m., at St. Xavier High School, 30 W. 10th St.*

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### [Artist Heads to Community Board to Salvage George Washington Statue Project](#) ['Tourist' Dress-Up Nixed For Union Square's George Washington Statue](#)



By [Jill Colvin](#), [DNAInfo.com](#)  
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## MURRAY HILL AND GRAMERCY

See more: Events, Lifestyle & Entertainment, Manhattan, Murray Hill & Gramercy, Leon Reid IV, Philip Z. Kimball, Wally Rubín, 14th Street, Union Square, Art in Odd Places Festival, Community Board 5, George Washington statue, kickstarter, New York City Parks Department

### 'Tourist' Makeover of Union Square Statue Gets Parks Department OK

September 30, 2011 4:13pm | By Mary Johnson, DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

1 comment share print RECOMMEND



click to see all pictures (6 photos)



Artist Leon Reid IV won last-minute approval by the Parks Department to dress the statue of George Washington in Union Square Park in tourist garb. (Art in Odd Places/Leon Reid IV)

UNION SQUARE — After much debate and controversy, the George Washington statue in Union Square Park will be getting an artistic makeover.

Leon Reid IV got word on Thursday that his project — to dress the statue up as a New York City tourist — was approved after a lengthy battle that pit the public artist against the New York City Parks Department.

The permission came less than 48 hours before Reid hoped to install his project, called "Tourist-in-Chief," and after lengthy negotiations between the Parks Department, Reid and his attorney.

"Right down to the wire," Reid laughed in a phone interview on Friday.

Now that he has the official go-ahead, he will head to Union Square Park tomorrow at 7 a.m. to set up the installation. The hulking bronze, decked out in an oversized "I ♥ New York" hat and a subway map, will be part of the Art in Odd Places festival, which is taking place along 14th Street over the next week.

Reid initially announced his project this summer and launched a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter. He had no problem raising the \$3,000 he requested. But [as DNAinfo first reported](#), Reid ran up against a roadblock when the Parks Department denied his proposal, claiming they frown on projects that could potentially damage public sculptures.

Reid then presented his case to the Community Board 5 parks committee, which [voted unanimously in favor of the project and pledged to weigh the proposal at a full board meeting in early September](#). The committee also voted to request a statement from the Parks Department explaining why it turned Reid down.

"My mind was set that this would be permitted, whether it was going to be sooner or later," Reid said.

But the matter never made it to the full community board meeting on Sept. 8.

Asked why, the board's district manager, Wally Rubin, said simply that the Park's Department had already made its decision.

Reid attended the meeting that night. After he learned that his project would not be discussed, he criticized the board for failing to take a stand against the city.

"What's the point of having a board if they're not going to decide what they want independently? Their voice should be heard," Reid told DNAinfo.

But Reid kept pushing, enlisting attorney Philip Z. Kimball to help in the negotiations.

Reid said the Parks Department's hesitation centered largely on the potential for damage to the statue. Reid was able to quell those concerns by assuring the department that the materials he intends to use, mostly made of light foam board, "weigh no more than the birds that land on Washington's head." Also, he agreed to limit the installation to last just 12 or 13 hours.

"I would've liked it to be left up longer," Reid said. "[But] the temporary nature of it will make it more important because of the very fact that [on Sunday] it will look the way it has for the last 150 years."

Reid said he made all the props he would need in advance of official approval because he wanted to be prepared when he got the final OK. He will install everything on Saturday and remain on site throughout the day to answer any questions from passersby and gauge people's reactions to the piece.

He expects the responses will be mixed, with some positive and some negative.

"And that's fine," he said. "I'm excited that I'm given the opportunity to get that reaction."

*Additional reporting by Jill Colvin.*

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### ART Brooklyn's Leon Reid IV Gets Go-Ahead for George Washington Statue Transformation

Posted by [Benjamin Seltzer](#) on Fri, Sep 30, 2011 at 1:07 PM

It's been a long, tumultuous trek for Leon Reid IV's "Tourist-in-Chief," the Brooklyn-based street artist and sculptor's proposal for a temporary transformation of Union Square's George Washington equestrian statue into a shopping bag-carrying, souvenir gear-clad tourist. But, after winning the Battle of Community Board 5 and despite sustained opposition from Parks Department troops, the founding shopper will ride on Union Square Saturday to launch the Art in Odd Places festival.



"Tourist-in-Chief" preparatory sketch. (Courtesy Leon Reid IV)



We salute you, "Tourist-in-Chief." (Courtesy Leon Reid IV)

In an email announcement yesterday, Reid announced that "Tourist-in-Chief" will be on view from 8am to 7pm on Saturday, October 1st. For the rest of the Art in Odd Places festival (through October 10) the historic sculpture will revert to its stately Washingtonian self. The announcement acknowledges the uphill battle to get a permit for the installation:

Securing a permit to use literally the oldest statue in New York City as a basis for an installation was a daunting administrative feat. We would like to give special thanks to Philip Z. Kimball attorney extraordinaire [sic] whose words transformed an NYC Parks denial letter into a permit.

So don't miss your only chance to catch "Tourist-in-Chief" on Saturday.

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## Leon Reid IV's Tourist-in-Chief Realized!

Posted on [10/01/2011](#) | [4 Comments](#)



Leon Reid IV's Tourist In Chief (all photos by Luna Park)

The Street Spot got up at the crack of dawn this morning to document public artist [Leon Reid IV](#) installing his *Tourist-in-Chief* piece in Union Square as part of this year's [Art in Odd Places](#) festival. Leon fought the good fight down to the wire and only yesterday finally secured a permit from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. With the help of an expertly piloted articulating boom lift, the temporary installation of a hat, camera, bags, and subway map onto the statue of George Washington went off without a hitch.

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Leon installing first the camera...





What's a good tourist without some shopping bags?



And for the final touch, a subway map.

And as luck would have it, by the time the installation was complete, the sun came out!



Tourist-in-Chief with the Empire State Building over his shoulder.



Tourist-in-Chief



A beaming Leon Reid IV in front of his work.

A steady stream of curious passersby stopped and took in George Washington's altered appearance with smiles all around.





It is a testament to the power of public art that a large crowd had amassed in front of the statue at Union Square by noon ... well, that would be the case in an ideal world... but as it turned out, the [SlutWalk NYC](#) protest was kicking up its high heels and demanding an end to violence against women. Admittedly an odd coincidence, but isn't that just another day in New York City? All joking aside, it's good to see people on the streets, demanding their rights.



Tourist-in-Chief meets SlurWalkNYC

The Tourist-in-Chief is only up until 7:00pm tonight, so stop by if you can. And, congratulations, Leon and Caroline, for making this happen!!





