

# THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

# SUMMER

# FUN GUIDE



Bard SummerScape—now in its seventh season—offers events in music, dance, drama, opera, film, and cabaret. The venue is the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, on Bard College's Hudson River campus.

**We Outfit You From The Catskills To Katmandu**

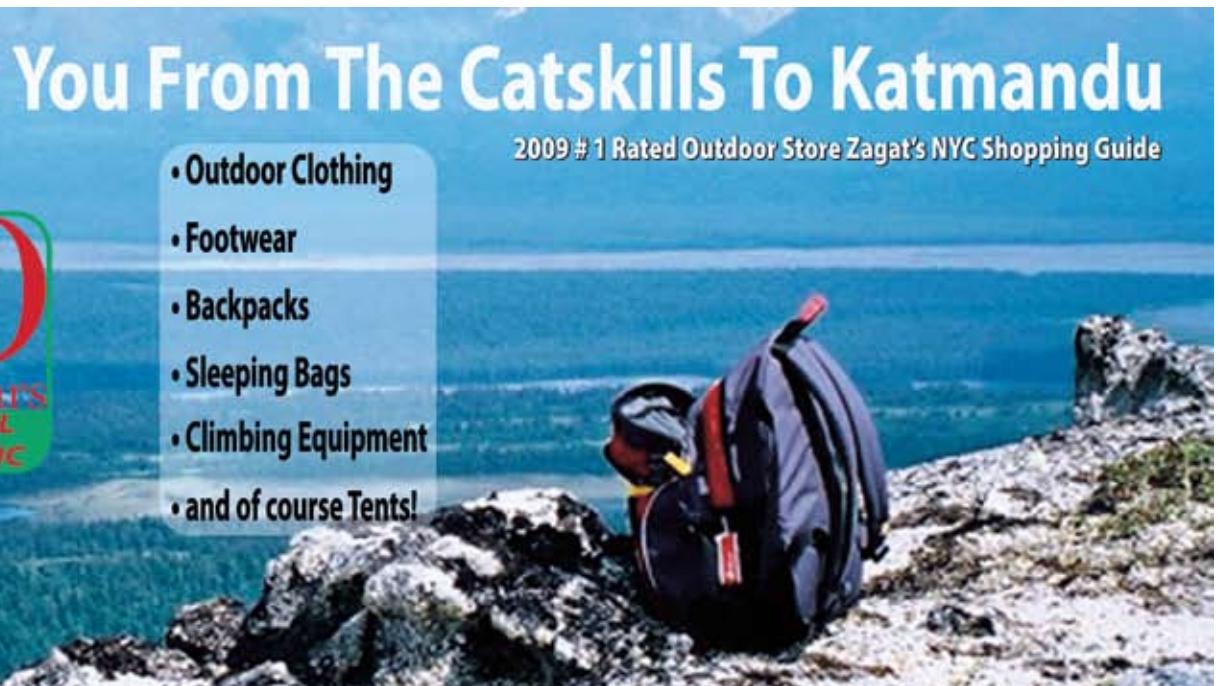
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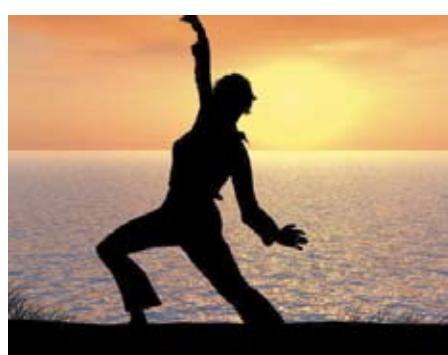
# 2009 Summer Fun Guide

**The Observer takes a trip through this season's offerings of the quirkiest to cultured festivals and events the city has to offer, with a brief side-trip to explore where to go when you just can't take the heat.**

BY JILLIAN BLUME

## Burlesque Master Class.

If you've always wanted to explore your inner vamp and you dream of being bedecked in feather and jewels, or you just want to pump it up a notch, consider taking a Burlesque Master Class with Professor Jo Boobs. Held at the infamous Sideshows By The Seashore on the Coney Island's boardwalk, The Coney Island Sideshow School is the destination for discovering your diva and learning about the history of burlesque. Students will perform at the legendary Burlesque at the Beach series in Coney Island. (From June 30–July 28, 6:00pm–9:00pm. For information: [www.coneyisland.com](http://www.coneyisland.com))



## Sunrise Tai Chi & Sunset Qigong Classes.

Incorporating physical postures, breathing techniques, and mental focus, the gentle, rhythmic movements of Tai Chi and Qigong

## Classes

From eccentric to mainstream, there's something for every taste

help reduce stress, build stamina, and improve balance using a moving form of meditation. Both classes will give you a peaceful, centered mind while you watch the sun rise and set and connect with the city's natural beauty. These free classes take place on the Linden Terrace overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades in Fort Tryon Park. (Enter the park at Fort Washington Avenue and continue north along the promenade, up the steps to Linden Terrace. Qigong: Mondays from June 1–September 14, 6:30pm–9:30pm. Tai Chi: Wednesdays from April 29–August 26, 6:30am.)

## The New York Botanical Garden.

Located in the Bronx, classes are offered in the Continuing Education division of The School of Professional Horticulture or the Summer Intensives. Check out the Introduct-

tion to Tree Climbing, Horticultural Therapy, or a Botanical Art Intensive. And while you're there, visit The Edible Garden to learn about the plants that we eat daily, and don't miss the Festival Weekend, June 27–28, to hear experts and scientists speak, see cooking demonstrations from top chefs, and indulge in some food, wine, and beer tastings. (For information, [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org))

## Trapeze School New York.

Learn to fly without a plane! With two locations and classes every day, you'll have plenty of time to practice the Flying Trapeze, Aerial Silks, Trampoline, and Static Trapeze. They have state-of-the-art equipment, expert instructors, and views of the Statue of Liberty and the Hudson River. Whether you're an athlete or an adrenaline junkie looking for a rush, it's a great workout that's fun and challenging, and you'll definitely have plenty to talk about at those summer rooftop cocktail parties. (For information: [newyork.trapezeschool.com](http://newyork.trapezeschool.com))

## Central Park Tango & South Street Seaport Tango Porteño.

Bring out your inner Drama Queen and King with free tango lessons all summer long. At the Seaport, take a tango class Sundays at 8:30pm on the boardwalk between the historic Peking ship and Skippers outdoor cafe. Then tango your heart out from May to September, 7pm to midnight every Sunday. In

Central Park, take a tango class Saturday's, 7:30pm at the Shakespeare Statue on Literary Mall at the opposite end of Bethesda Fountain, and then tango the night away every Saturday, 6pm–9pm, June 6–September. (For information: [spiceevents.net](http://spiceevents.net))

## The Art Studio NY.

If it's been years since you picked up a paintbrush, or if you're an art virgin, then this is the place to get your brushes wet. Founded by the internationally renowned contemporary painter Rebecca Schweiger, the classes are designed for the beginner to the experienced artist. The classes cover the spectrum of disciplines in groups and private classes, and take place either in their studio or outdoor settings such as Central Park and art museums. Summer classes include Self-Expression through Oil Painting, Open Studio Painting and Drawing, and others. Or sign up for the Gallery & Museum Workshop and Tours and explore the contemporary art scene in New York's art galleries. (For information: [www.rebeccarts.com](http://www.rebeccarts.com))

# Museums

**Fashioning Felt.** An exhibition that explores contemporary uses of felt, an ancient material thought to be one of the earliest examples of a textile production. Made by using humidity and friction to mat together wool fibers, the show will present historic examples and innovations in handmade felt, showcasing contemporary uses in a range of fields

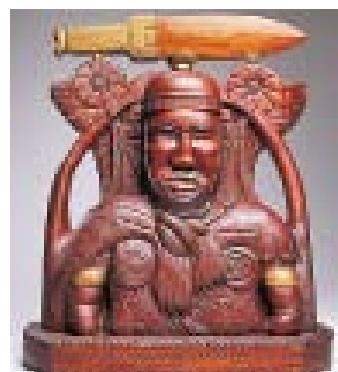
including industrial, furnishing, product design, fashion, and architecture. (Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, 2 East 91st Street. March 6–September 7.)

## The Treasure of Ulysses Davis

**Ulysses Davis.** A Savannah barber, he carved his sculptures when business was slow at his shop, and created a unified and refined collection of work that have been lauded as important examples of African American folk art. He used mostly ship-yard lumber for the three hundred plus carved figures that he worked on with a hatchet, band saw, and tools from his barber

trade such as his hair clippers. The series of 40 carved busts of U.S. presidents is considered his masterwork. (American Folk Art Museum, 45 West 53rd Street. April 21–September 6.)

**The Model as Muse: Embodying Fashion.** With a focus on iconic models of the 20th century and their roles in projecting and



The Treasure of Ulysses Davis.  
[www.folkartmuseum.org](http://www.folkartmuseum.org)



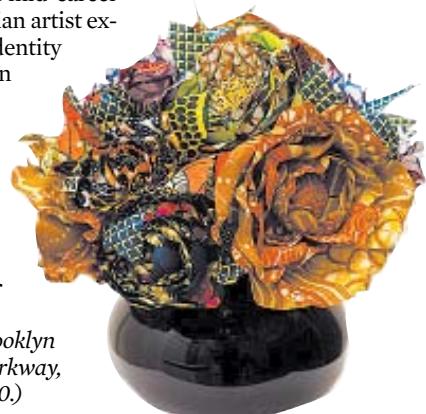
Pages Of Gold Morgan Library  
East Room Morgan Library  
[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

inspiring fashion, this exhibition explores the reciprocal relationship between high fashion and evolving concepts of beauty. The exhibition covers the period from 1947 to 1997, and includes haute couture and ready-to-wear work, fashion photography and video footage of models who personified their era. (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue at 82d Street. May 6–August 9, The Tisch Galleries, 2nd floor. The museum is closed on Mondays except for holidays.)

**Pages of Gold: Medieval Illuminations from the Morgan.** An exhibition of around fifty opulent single leaves, dating from the 12th to the 16th centuries. Pierpont Morgan was the preeminent collector of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and the centerpiece of the exhibition is a leaf from the Winchester Bible, considered the most lavish English Bible of its time. You can also tour a number of rooms at the museum, including an Italianate marble library, the Rotunda, Mr. Morgan's Study and Library, and the Librarian's Office, open for the first time to the public. (The Morgan Library and Museum, 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street. Pages of Gold, June 19–September 13. Mr. Morgan's Library and Study, ongoing.)

## Yinka Shonibare MBE.

This mid-career survey of the U.K.-based Nigerian artist explores contemporary African identity and its relationship to European colonialism through painting, sculpture, installation, and moving images. Best known for his work with visual symbols, particularly his tableaux of headless mannequins, this exhibition will include an installation, Mother and Father Worked So I Can Play, specifically created for this show. (Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. June 26–September 20.)



Yinka Shonibare Culture Flower  
[www.octobergallery.co.uk](http://www.octobergallery.co.uk)

# Poetry

Join the journey with some of poetry's great talents at the **Fourteenth Annual Poetry Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge** to benefit Poets House. You'll be surrounded by poetry lovers and hear literary tributes to the bridge read by poets Hettie Jones, Galway Kinnell, Thomas Lux, Natasha Trethewey and Kevin Young on this literary pilgrimage over the bridge. It begins in the park near One Centre Street and stops for readings along the way. Then join the celebration for dinner at Bubby's Brooklyn, where actor Bill Murray will read a selection of his favorite poems. (Tickets: \$250 or \$225 for Po-

ets House members. Reservations are required, 212.431.7920, ext. 2211, or email [Krista@poetshouse.org](mailto:Krista@poetshouse.org). Monday, June 8, 6:30pm.)

## Poetry at Central Park SummerStage.

The Academy of American Poets presents a reading by three contemporary poets. Elizabeth Alexander, Thomas Sayers Ellis, and Sharon Olds take the stage in Central Park. Elizabeth Alexander, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, was selected to read at Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration. Thomas Sayers Ellis work "is marked by



Sharon Olds  
Catherine Mauger

manesque." (Rumsey Playfield, Central Park. June 18, 7:00p.m.)

## Definitely Poetry.

Urban green pioneer Majora Carter hosts a celebration of spoken word, music, and visual art. On the lineup: Earthdriver, a collaboration of musicians, poets, dancers, and visual artists. Spoken word artist Staceyann Chin has had a one-woman show Off-Broadway. Jennifer Johns is a singer/songwriter and spoken word artist who has recently released a debut album. A live, competitive art show for emerging artists, ArtBattles is a platform for artistic discovery. At the forefront of spoken word poetry and the hip hop movement, Urban Word NYC features members of the 2009 Urban World NYC Poetry

Slam Team performing before they compete at the national teen slam in Chicago. (Central Park SummerStage, Rumsey Playing Field. June 20, 3:00pm.)

## Writing the Hudson River: 400 Years of Poetic Discovery.

This is a Panel & Reading with Wayne Franklin, Judith Richardson, Nancy Willard, Mark Wunderlich and others. The event celebrates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to New York Harbor. Readings and a panel discussion of the cultural and environmental motifs in the literature of the Hudson River Valley, from Native American poetic traditions to the urban pastoral poetry of John Ashberry. (Wave Hill, West 249th Street and Independence Avenue, Bronx. Take Metro-North Hudson Line to Riverdale. July 12, 1:00pm.)

# Music

One of New York's oldest, free performing arts festivals, **Celebrate Brooklyn!** kicks off the season with The Music of David Byrne and Brian Eno. Located in Prospect Park at the Bandshell, the lineup is representative of Brooklyn's diverse population and features a broad range of performances from internationally acclaimed and emerging artists in music, dance, and film. On this year's lineup: the innovative music of Calypsonian David Rudder who has been called "the Bob Marley of Soca," Blonde Redhead, The Robert Cray Band, and many others. (June 8–August 15. For information: [www.briconline.org](http://www.briconline.org))

Take a stroll downtown, enjoy the river views, and get some culture on a sunny day. The largest, summer-long arts festival in the country, **River To River** runs from June through September at various downtown venues. These mostly outdoor events are all free, so you

can sample a wide variety, ranging from the New York City Opera's The Magic Flute (Rockefeller Park, Battery Park City River Terrace and Warren Street, June 29, 7:00pm) to Arlo Guthrie: A Tribute to Woodstock (Castle Clinton National Monument in Battery Park. Tickets are first-come, first-served starting at 5:00pm. July 30 at 7:00pm.)

Stay cool on Pier 17 at the **South Street Seaport Music Festival**. Seven free concerts with the Peking as a backdrop featuring indie-rockers Here We Go Magic, The Pains of Being Pure At Heart, Superchunk, Black Moth Super Rainbow, Polvo, Casiokids, and others. With an emphasis on presenting up and coming bands that challenge musical boundaries, it's a chance to see some acclaimed performers and discover the next wave of talent. There's dancing and plentiful food and beer available. Get there early if you want to be able to see the band. (Pier 17,



Robert Cray  
Getty Images

Fulton and South Street. Fridays from July 3–August 14, 6:00pm.)

For the classically minded there's the **New York Philharmonic in the Parks**, with performances at Central Park, Prospect Park, and Van Cortland Park. Bring a blanket, a picnic basket, and good friends to enjoy a night under the stars. If you're serious about concentrat-

ing on the music, sit close to the bandshell, but plan to arrive a few hours early. The first concert is on the Great Lawn in Central Park (July 14, 8:00pm), featuring Mozart, Symphony No. 41, Jupiter, and Beethoven, Symphony No. 7. (July 14–17, 8:00pm. For information, [nypf.org](http://nypf.org))

Check out Coney Island's world-famous Wonder Wheel in between bands at the 9th annual **Village Voice Siren Music Festival**. On the boardwalk with two stages at Surf Avenue and at Stillwell, this all-day, free music extravaganza includes indie and experimental rockers and emerging artists including Built To Spill, The Raveonettes, Frightened Rabbit, Grand Duchy, Monotonix, Spank Rock, Future of the Left, Japandroids, Bear Hands, and Micachu & The Shapes. (Coney Island, Saturday, July 18, 12:00pm–9:00pm.)

## The 2009 BAM's Rhythm & Blues Festival

featuring legendary and emerging R&B and world music performers in free outdoor concerts throughout the summer. Scheduled in July, Grammy Award-winning Ladysmith Black Mambazo represents traditional South African culture. Catapulted to fame by performing with Paul Simon on Graceland, they've since collaborated with artists Stevie Wonder and others. Their a capella music is inspired by Isicathamiya, a style that originated in the mines, and is accompanied by "tip toe guys" dance, which was originally choreographed so as not to disturb the mine's security guards. (MetroTech Commons at Metro-Tech Center, located at the corner of Flatbush and Myrtle Avenues. July 30, 12:00pm–2:00pm.)

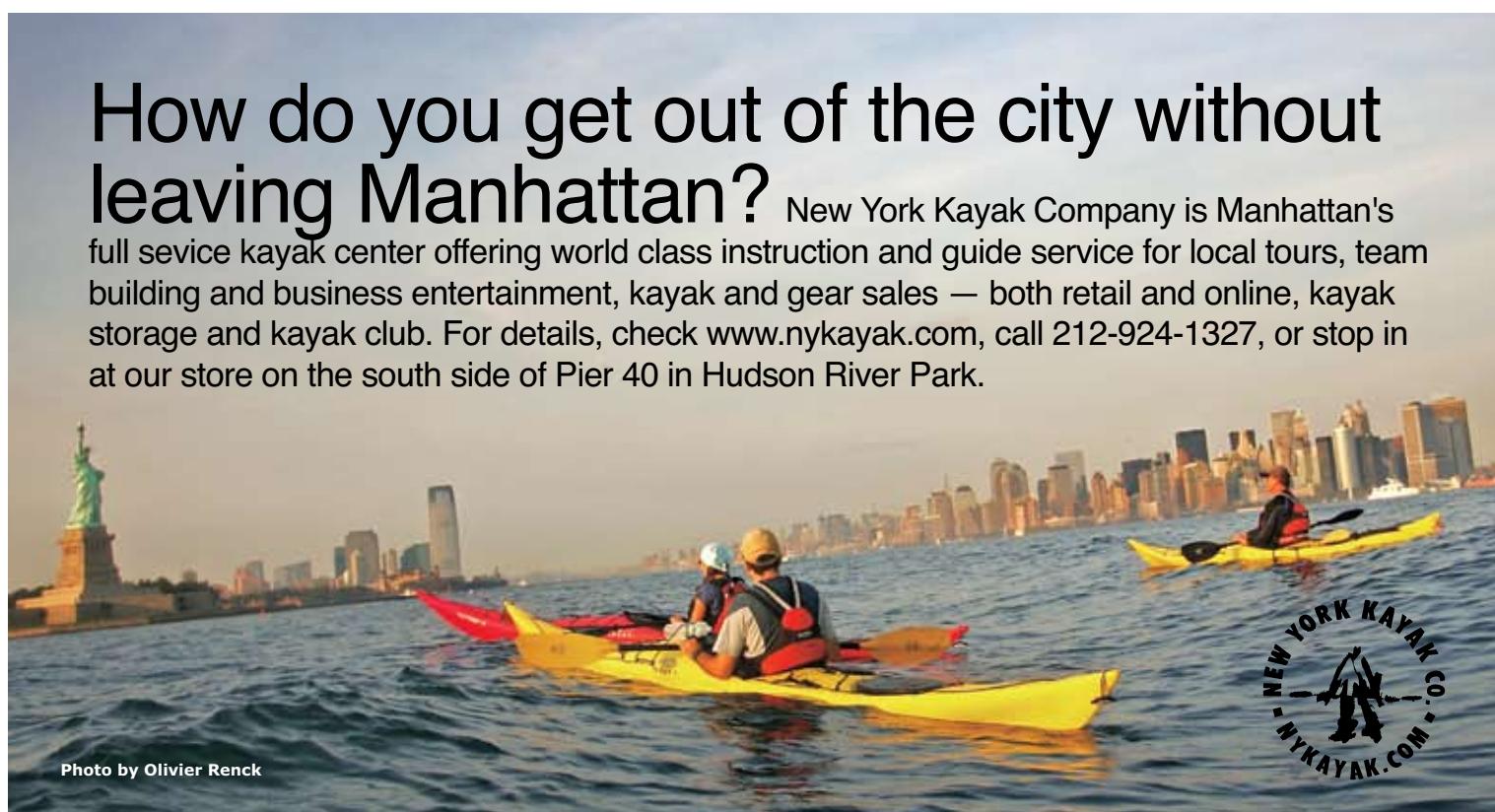


## Charlie Parker Jazz Festival.

A two-day gathering of renowned musicians who embody the music of Charlie Parker takes place in the neighborhoods where he lived, Harlem's Marcus Garvey Park and the Lower East Side's Tompkins Square Park. The legendary Frank Wess Quintet, Grammy Award-winning alto-saxophonist, Gary Bartz, and emerging artists José James and Aaron Parks will be onstage at Marcus Garvey Park. Appearing at Tompkins Square Park is the renowned jazz pianist Cedar Walton playing with his quartet, the Afro-Caribbean sounds of Papa Vazquez Pirates Troubadores, singer and composer Pyeng Threadgill, and the Dred Scott Trio. Both concerts are free. (August 29 at 3:00pm, Marcus Garvey Park, 124th Street and Mt. Morris Park. August 30 at 3:00pm, Tompkins Square Park, East 8th Street between Avenues A and B.)

## How do you get out of the city without leaving Manhattan?

New York Kayak Company is Manhattan's full service kayak center offering world class instruction and guide service for local tours, team building and business entertainment, kayak and gear sales — both retail and online, kayak storage and kayak club. For details, check [www.nykayak.com](http://www.nykayak.com), call 212-924-1327, or stop in at our store on the south side of Pier 40 in Hudson River Park.



NEW YORK KAYAK CO.  
NYKAYAK.COM

Photo by Olivier Renck

# Dance

## Streb Extreme Action.

And now for something completely different! Pushing the boundaries of dance performance, Streb is a daring combination of extreme sports, circus acrobatics, theatrical performance, and daredevil stunts. Head of the company, Elizabeth Streb, defines her choreography as "...pop action. The outcome is a mixture of slam dancing, exquisite and amazing human flight, and a wild action sport." A gravity-defying performance, these dancers are action-heroes that test the limits of risk, speed, and space to produce an electrifying experience. The company performs Invisible Forces in a free event that's part of the Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival. (Prospect Park Bandshell, July 9, 8:00pm.)

## Shen Wei Dance Arts.

Part of the Lincoln Center Festival, this ensemble performance of Re-I, Re-II, and Re-III presents a choreographed journey through Tibet, Angkor Wat, and the New Silk Road. Artistic Director Shen Wei incorporates elements of sculpture, theatrical storytelling, traditional and contemporary visual art, Chinese Opera, and Eastern philosophy to create a poetic, powerful, and riveting performance. Shen Wei received worldwide acclaim with his choreography for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Commissioned for Lincoln Center's 50th anniversary, this is the New York premier of the complete triptych. (July 9-11, Alice Tully Hall, Starr Theater. For tickets: [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org).)



There's dancing in the streets at the **South Street Seaport**. Nicholas Leichter Dance will perform A Space Funk Invasion to music by Daft Punk, The Time, and Monstah Black on the cobblestone plaza across the street from the pier. The company "choreographs cultural narratives in which movement tells the story," and Space Funk is all about the energy and history of funk music, culture, and fashion. Presented by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council as part of the River to River Festival, grab an outdoor seat at one of the restaurants and have a beer as you enjoy the show. (*The Seaport, Fulton and Front Streets, July 20-22, 27-29, 6:00pm. July 23 & 30, 1:00pm.*)

## Rioult.

Appearing as part of Central Park's SummerStage, this company was founded by Pascal Rioult, formerly a dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company. His dances are known for being sensual and emotional, full of musical expression and drama. Viewsic Expressions, led by Germaul Barnes, performs cutting-edge contemporary dance with original music and live vocals, exploring the relationship between movement, costume, design, and music. (*Central Park SummerStage at Rumsey Playfield. Enter the park at 69th Street and 5th Avenue on the east side or at 72nd Street and Central Park West on the west side. July 31, 8:00pm.*)

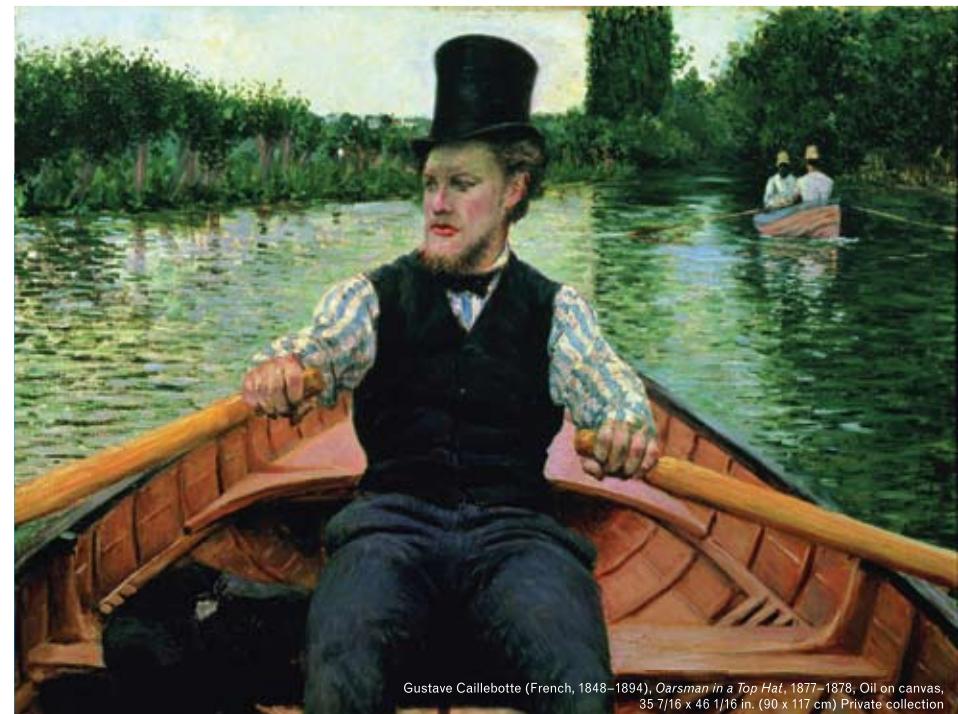


- \* The Cyclone Roller Coaster
- \* Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park
- \* New York Aquarium
- \* Coney Island Circus Sideshow
- \* Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs
- \* Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball Games
- \* Coney Island Beach and Boardwalk
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For all the info go to  
[ConeyIslandFunGuide.com](http://ConeyIslandFunGuide.com)

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Gustave Caillebotte (French, 1848-1894), *Oarsman in a Top Hat*, 1877-1878, Oil on canvas, 35 7/16 x 46 1/16 in. (90 x 117 cm) Private collection

## TAKE THE SUBWAY TO PARIS Caillebotte: Impressionist Paintings from Paris to the Sea

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*Gustave Caillebotte: Impressionist Paintings from Paris to the Sea* is organized by the Brooklyn Museum, Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen, and Kunsthalle Bremen.

The Brooklyn presentation is made possible by generous support from the Robert Lehman Foundation, the Brooklyn Museum's Barbara and Richard Debs Exhibition Fund and the Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Exhibition Fund. The Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities has granted an indemnity for this project.

ALSO ON VIEW:

**Unearthing the Truth: Egypt's Pagan and Coptic Sculpture**  
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**Brooklyn Museum**

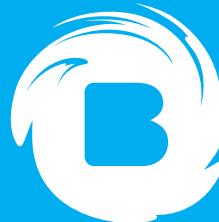
718-638-5000 [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

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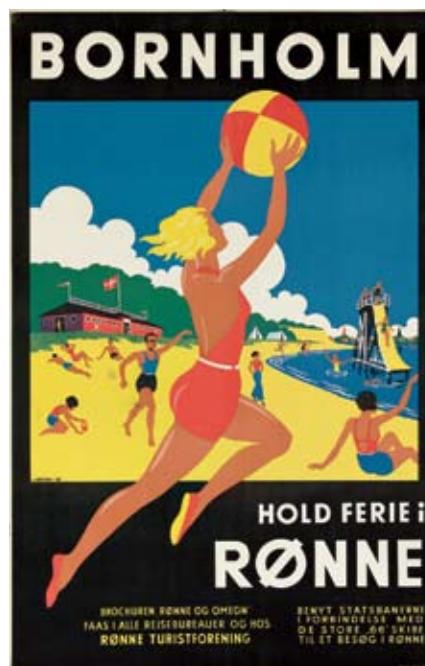
200 Eastern Parkway (adjacent to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden)

Subway: 2 3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum or take 4 5 to Nevins St and transfer to 2 3

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SWANNS



Linstow, *Bornholm*, color lithograph poster, 1935. Estimate \$800 to \$1,200. At auction August 5.

### SUMMER AUCTIONS

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## Coney Island

Coney Island is really fun and really open this summer! With the beach, the Boardwalk and rides old and new, Coney Island remains a hot destination. Old favorites abound, from Deno's Kiddie Park to the Cyclone, the Wonder Wheel to Lola Starr's Dreamland Roller Rink, from Nathan's Famous to Ruby's Bar and Grill, and the New York Aquarium to KeySpan Park, there's something for everyone. And with "uniquely Coney" events like the Mermaid Parade, the Siren Festival and Nathan's Famous' Hot Dog Eating Contest, and now introducing Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, there are memory-making experiences in Coney Island to last a lifetime.

Coney Island is for young and old, locals and tourists. And this summer is just a taste of things to come. The City of New York, New York City Economic Development Corporation, the Coney Island Development Corporation and city agencies are working together to create a 27-acre, 21st Century amusement and entertainment district in Coney Island that will draw visitors year-round. And in the neighborhood outside the amusement district that 50,000 New Yorkers call home, new retail, almost 1,000 units of affordable housing and thousands of construction and permanent jobs will ensure that Coney Island remains a place where families come to live, work and play.

### Manhattan Sailing School

The portal to a summer of sun, wind, and open views is located in Battery Park City. The Manhattan Sailing School offers sailing lessons at North Cove Marina's Manhattan Sailing Club. "It's just a beautiful place to sail," says Director David Caporale, "and the marina itself is a jewel of Manhattan." A mega-yacht marina, you'll see spectacular yachts and classic boats coming in and going out as you learn the ropes in Basic Keelboat Sailing. Once you have the basics mastered, Basic Coastal Cruising is a two-day overnight adventure, or take the Introduction to Sailboat Racing, and work up to racing at the completion of their Level Two class.

The school has been in business for over 25 years, and their instructors are seasoned experts. Sailing in New York Harbor provides the best view of the Manhattan skyline and takes you past the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the cruise ships. Join the Manhattan Sailing Club for all-summer access to their fleet of sailboats, seven days a week from 9am-dusk, and the floating clubhouse, the



"Honorable William Wall." May 18– October 18. Basic Sailing: Friday 6:00–8:00pm, Classroom Instruction; Saturday 9:00am–7:00pm, On-Water Instruction; Sunday 9:00am–7:00pm, On-Water Instruction and Certification Test. \$690. [www.sailmanhattan.com](http://www.sailmanhattan.com)

### Exciting Times at the New York Open Center!

The New York Open Center is recognized as the city's leading center of holistic learning, presenting a year round roster of hundreds of outstanding workshops, lectures, long-term and professional trainings, trips abroad and conferences devoted to all aspects of holistic thinking and practice. We offer programs in spiritual teachings from many traditions, alternative health & bodywork, psychology, the arts and more.

At the NY Open Center, you'll also find a bookstore featuring works by our presenters along with a wide range of titles related to our programs. Wellness Services offering massage & bodywork, an art gallery and meditation room.

Beginning in July, after 25 years in Soho, the Open Center will be moving to a new and larger location, 22 East 30th Street. Come, and discover for yourself all that we have to offer! 83 Spring Street, 212-219-2527 x 2 [www.opencenter.org](http://www.opencenter.org)

### Connect with Kayaking

New Yorkers no longer have to leave the city to have an adventure filled encounter with nature. While paddling a sea kayak across the impressive expanse of water that surrounds the city, the sky is overwhelming in its prominence, putting Manhattan into perspective despite its epic scale. Our local harbor and rivers are animated by the ebb and flow of strong tidal currents, and by the waves and chop generated by wind and the occasional passing vessel. Navigating and powering a kayak in these conditions completely engages the body and mind, activating novel muscle groups and parts of the nervous system that are left dormant by our habitual thought and movement patterns, stripping away obsessions with situations or relationships that would distract us from the moment at hand. Sea kayaking in New York is refreshing and exhilarating, generating positive bonds and esprit de corps for those who share the

adventure.

Joining us for sea kayaking is an excellent way to meet new people, have fun with your friends, entertain business associates and build better relationships on your team. Sea Kayaking in urban waterways like the Hudson River is challenging, but the risks posed can be managed with preparation and technical kayaking skill -- or by the supervision of qualified personnel. New York Kayak Company has been training, supervising and guiding sea kayakers from beginner to advanced levels since 1994. Our instructors have traveled to special schools and symposiums in the US and Europe to obtain the best instructor and guide training available, and we continue to study and train to stay abreast of best practices in our field. This year we're introducing Stand-Up Paddleboard, too. Please check our website to discover all we have to offer, or stop in to visit our store and club at Pier 40 in Hudson River Park: [www.ny kayak.com](http://www.ny kayak.com); 212-924-1327.



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\*Please mention NY Observer Summer Fun Guide Ad for complimentary workout and special rates

### The Thrill of Sailing Comes with Magnificent Views of the City

When the mercury rises in the city this summer, there is no better reprieve than the wind and waves on the Hudson River. Boating in and around the city is not only easy, it's eye-opening, invigorating and addictive. Sailing provides peace of mind, mental exercise and physical relaxation. Families can enjoy the ultimate bonding experience, working as a team and gaining a healthy reliance on each other. Sailing offers New Yorkers the opportunity to see their city from a different vantage point with unsurpassed views of the Manhattan Skyline, Ellis Island and Lady Liberty. Sailing in and around the city is easier and more affordable than ever. Since 1964, the Offshore Sailing School has taught more than 100,000 landlubbers the sailing skills needed to become the master of their own maritime destiny. With two locations in the New York metro-area, Chelsea Piers in Manhattan and Liberty Landing at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Yorkers can sail away from the summer heat without leaving the city.

Taught on Colgate 26 boats, the basic "Learn to Sail" course teaches everything from nautical terminology to the art of tacking and trimming. By course end students have the skills and confidence to take a free practice sail sans instructor. More advanced sailing courses have students taking the helm of larger boats, including a Live Aboard course on a Hunter 45, where students learn and live aboard for four days. For those looking to set sail on a regular basis in the New York Harbor, The Offshore Sailing Club is a hassle-free way to have access seven days a week to a fleet of sailboats. Groups can practice team-building exercises with Offshore's Corporate Sail Race Challenges. Offshore Sailing School's two hour sailing lessons start at \$120 per person; the three-day "Learn to Sail" course starts at \$795 per person (800-221-4326; [offshoresailing.com](http://offshoresailing.com))

### Wild Earth Adventures

On some days, summer in the city can be too hot to handle. To get out of town without a lot of hassle, get a mega-dose of clean air, revel in nature, and get in your exercise, go on a hike with Wild Earth Adventures. A 29-year-old hiking club, they know the off-the-beaten-path locations as well as the established trails. Director Charles Cook is a New York State licensed guide and an author of five books who has hiked over 50,000 miles and led more than 1,600 trips. He's the guide for all the trips, and there's even transportation available from their meet-up site in front

of the Museum of Natural History. All you have to do is make sure you pack the right equipment and wear well broken-in hiking boots. You'll hike through some of the most scenic areas and meet a group of diverse people who share the love for the great outdoors. They offer trips for beginners as well as seasoned hikers, and hikes from easy to strenuous. There are backpacking trips, wilderness camping trips, and hiking vacations where you stay in cabins or country inns. Summer day trips include Sugarloaf Mountain/Twin Mountain and Shawangunk Cliffs. Wilderness vacations include Cranberry Lake/



Five Ponds Wilderness and Pharaoh Lake Backpacking Trip. If you plan to spend a lot of time hiking, become a member for priority reservations and discounted trip fees. (Visit their site for the complete trip schedule [www.wildearthadventures.com](http://wildearthadventures.com).)

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# 4 Great Day Trips

Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate. Home to four generations of the Rockefeller family and now a National Trust Home, this stone mansion is located on the highest point in Pocantico Hills overlooking the Hudson River, an hour drive from the city. Designed in the Classical Revival Georgian style, it's surrounded by the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and open to public tours. Tours include the main floor containing 18th-century style furniture, tapestries, and Chinese and European ceramics, the second floor's sitting rooms, and the underground art gallery. Spend a summer afternoon strolling the Beau-Arts style terraced gardens and explore the Coach Barn's collection of antique carriages and classic cars. (Purchase tickets in advance at [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org) or by phone 914.631.9491. From \$23-\$40.)



Long Island Wine Country. Only 90 minutes from the city, there are tastings, vineyard tours, and special events throughout the summer. The third largest wine growing region in the country, there are over 50 wine producers in the wine growing region, mostly concentrated in the North Fork. Many vineyards have tasting rooms, but be sure to bring along a designated driver or take a tour because the atmosphere definitely encourages swallowing! You'll find demonstrations of wine making, barrel tastings, and lots of live music. (For information: [www.liwines.com](http://www.liwines.com). For tours: Long Island Wine Tours, 631.775.8686.) Montauk Point. At the tip of Long Island's

South Fork, this is a little bit of paradise within driving distance. There's something for everyone, from beaches to karaoke. For surfing, Ditch Plains Beach has some of the best waves on the east coast. For seafaring history, take a tour of the Montauk Point Lighthouse and check out the museum. Starting July 6, take a Whale Watching Tour aboard Viking Fleet Vessels, or attend an oil painting workshop with Bob Ross at the Montauk Daylily Gardens. You can scuba or snorkel at the H.M.S. Culloden shipwreck site or go windsurfing at Napeague Harbor. There are also numerous parks for biking, horseback riding, and hiking. (For information: [www.onmontauk.com](http://www.onmontauk.com).)

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. Originally designed in the 1920s as a weekend house for William Robertson Coe and his wife, Standard Oil heiress Mai Coe, the 409 acres of gardens and woodland paths have acres of labeled trees from exotic locales, a herbarium with over 10,000 plant specimens, spectacular greenhouses, and the 65-room Tudor Revival Coe Hall. Spend the day meandering through the gardens including the Italian Blue Pool Garden and the Synoptic Garden, or check out the Camellia Greenhouse. There are also miles of walking trails and tours of Coe Hall. (Oyster Bay, Long Island. Grounds open from 9:00am-6:00pm. Self-guided tours of Coe Hall's 1st floor, 11:30am-3:30pm, \$6.50. Guided tours upstairs/downstairs at 12:30pm and 2:30pm, \$3.50. For information: 516.922.8682.)

## This could be you!



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