

FIGMENT 2008: A SELECTION OF EVENTS

Most Figment Events are Family Friendly

**** Indicate Events of Special Note for Families**

**** indicates Green Events**

SEMINAR/LECTURE/EDUCATION

- **** Museum of Natural History, The Structures & Culture Moveable Museum**— Be an anthropologist! Explore the traditional homes of three modern nomadic peoples, the Gabra of Kenya, the Mongols of Mongolia, and the Blackfeet of North America.
- **** Brooklyn Museum, "Click! A Crowd-Curated Exhibition"**—Drawing from current exhibitions, the lecture series explores participatory art.
- **Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, "Jamaica Flux: Workspaces & Windows"**—The animated discussion promises to challenge traditional ideas about where art should be displayed, while exploring the relationship between art, commerce, urban renewal and community.
- **Black Rock Arts Foundation, Talk by LadyBee (Figment Curatorial Advisor)**— Images documenting *Burning Man*, the annual creation of a city in the desert, serve as the basis for a discussion on community-based interactive art.
- **The Empathetic Art of Lucy Orta**—The lecture will delve into the collaborative and participatory aspects of the politically charged work of this pioneer of the theory of Relational Aesthetics.
- **Swoon: Visual Wilderness in New York**—Within the context of the complex relationship between city-dwellers and the vibrant visual life offered by NYC, the lecture will address the work of the legendary street artist.
- **Home Is Where The Art Is**—This highly participatory presentation by an internationally recognized photojournalist (member Reporters Without Borders, NPPA, APA, International Red Cross) will examine the collective recovery, through artistic cooperation, of communities in crisis.
- **** Brooklyn Public Library, Bookmobile**—The 32-foot-long vehicle, which houses a mobile library of up to 6,000 books, will be available for visitors to peruse.

ART/SCULPTURE/INSTALLATION

- **** The Art of Skateboarding**—Homemade ramps will be constructed of **recyclable materials**; an artist talk will coincide with this installation.

- **** “Shaking Hands” on the Lawn of Governors Island**—This site-specific installation, utilizing the island’s natural surroundings to highlight **environmental concerns**, will feature variations on work previously exhibited at PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Bronx Museum, and New Orleans Contemporary Art Center, as well as internationally.
- **** Brooklyn Arts Council, “Plastic Blanket”**—The art installation/performance piece strives to create **environmental awareness** of everyday personal consumption.
- **** The Rose Petal Pool**—The creators of this multi-media, interactive sound installation encourage children of all ages to enjoy the rich sensory experience.
- **** ** Starlight on the Island**—A series of **solar panel powered**, spherical steel sculptures will absorb sunlight to light the island at night.
- **** ** Arbor Animus (Spirited, Courageous Tree)**—The artist collective will bring their 16-foot tall, multi-media (metal, wood, LED lights) American Willow Tree to Governors Island as part of the sculpture’s 2008 national tour of major art festivals.

Additional art installations will incorporate such innovative materials and resources as telescopes, a teepee, 2,000 silver colored flags, and a pair of five-foot tall wooden lips! The majority of sculptures and art pieces are touchable and climbable—resulting in much art that is interactive and child-friendly.

VIDEO/FILM/MULTI-MEDIA

- **The Blacksburg Project, A Selection From The SETC Fringe Festival**—As part of a multi-media performance, actors will perform excerpts from the play memorializing victims of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre.
- **** “Say Nothing” Interactive Video Performance**—This staged “social experiment” will have participants doing exactly the opposite! The installation allows the participant to broadcast an image of their face on TV with accompanying monologue.

In addition, FIGMENT 2008 will offer a range of offerings by video and film artists sharing both their personal and collective expressions—often influenced by Governors Island—including the documentation of the construction of an elaborate reclaimed wood sculpture and one NY native’s 1979 marriage in the island’s Trinity Church.

DANCE/PERFORMANCE/WORKSHOP/ACTIVITY/OTHER

- **** Maroguzcaju Theater, “Silencio, Silencioso”**—This spirited puppet show, which demonstrates how happiness can be found in life’s little details, is perfect for the whole family.
- **** The NZASSA Company, African Dance Workshop**—Learn about the rich cultural life of the Cote d’Ivoire in this dance workshop open to all participants, regardless of experience level or age.
- **** Ballet International Africans, “African Dance: Lessons for Healing”**—Learn to

bring some balance to your inner energy utilizing basic African dances and rhythms, accompanied by African drumming.

- **** Guerilla Art**—The workshop adopts an **ecologically friendly** take on the history, theory and practice of guerilla art.
- **“Four One-Legged Men,” 10th Annual NY International Fringe Festival**—Excerpts from the critically acclaimed, award-winning one-man play will be performed throughout the weekend.
- **** NYC Expressive Arts Studio, “Planetary Dance”**—Be a participant in this rhythmic circular dance, which will be choreographed by instructors from the community-based arts organization. Informal classes on simple running and walking patterns will precede the performance.
- **** Coney Island USA/ArtLab, “Circus Sideshow”**—One part interactive art installation, one part performance, one part educational lecture, and one part traditional Coney Island circus sideshow, this event has it all!
- **** ** “Knitting Plastics” Workshop**—Learn how to create works of art using **recycled plastic** bags.
- **** ** State of Progress, “Lettuce Lane”**—The FIGMENT 2008 installation comes at the conclusion of the New York Foundation for the Arts funded, 3-month multi-disciplinary tour of state fairs and farms facilitating collaborative efforts between the general public and agricultural communities.

The work of both emerging and established choreographers will be featured as part of the many dance performances taking place throughout the 3-day event. Similarly, FIGMENT 2008 will have a range of performance art offerings, including such original and unusual unions as the merging of creative writing with art and improvisational drama exercises with therapeutic movement, sound, and role-play. In addition, visitors to the island can participate in the creation of pop-trash poetry done karaoke style, Ukrainian body painting, private readings at the “Poetry Brothel,” and the “intrepid” use of cameras to record various urban explorations.

MUSIC/SOUND

- **Wolf + Lamb Artists**—The outdoor musical stage will feature work by Brooklyn and international electronic artists.
- **** The Institute for Aesthetics, “Dutch Troubadour Troupe”**—The period costumed musicians will serenade the passerby with songs of ancient revelry, encouraging one and all to join their band as they move about the island.

The musical offerings of FIGMENT 2008 are extensive, as well as exceptional in their variety and innovation. They range from boogie and classic rock to futuristic Brooklyn hip-hop to the “healing” sounds of electric keyboards to traditional bawdy German songs about murder, madness and mayhem—to the accompaniment of an organ grinder! Many of the performances are also representative of the collaborative spirit of multiple disciplines working together: a sound installation incorporating restaurant kitchen recordings, live electric flute accompanied by modern dancers, a mix of acoustic and electronic dance

music resulting from remixes of Rwandan mass and folktronica... Finally, humor permeates many of the offerings, as probably best represented by the Celtic vocalist who will be singing her heartfelt songs about love, loss and indigestion.

FAMILIES/KIDS

In addition to the activities identified above ** **as great for families**, kids will have the opportunity to improve their hula hooping skills with **Groovehoops**, see how low they can go for lemonade at **Limbonade**, and interact with numerous strolling jugglers, costumed actors, dancers and musicians. We structured the entire event to provide an abundance of accessible, shaded and enticing areas for families to picnic and hang-out together.