

GO BROOKLYN

(718) 260-2500

Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 25-31, 2017

Wild at art!

Book festival to show Maurice Sendak's drawings

By Julianne Cuba
Brooklyn Paper

This is where the Wild Things are! One of the world's most beloved children's book authors will finally get a solo exhibit of his work in his native Brooklyn, five years after his death. More than 75 drawings by Maurice Sendak, creator of the world-famous "Where the Wild Things Are," will be on display at the Brooklyn Antiquarian Book Festival, which is happening in Greenpoint Sept. 8-10.

The famous author's work has been displayed all over the world, but there is something special about bringing it to the place he grew up, said Justin G. Schiller, the show's curator.

"I'm glad that we were able to bring his original drawings back to this neighborhood, and he's had many shows all over the world," said Schiller, who was Sendak's art agent for 45 years. "He's a unique talent — I think he's generally considered the most important children's book artist of the 20th century."

Sendak, both an illustrator and author of creative, colorful, and emotional children's stories, produced more than 100 books during his career in addition to 1963's "Where the Wild Things Are."

The exhibit will feature more than 75 of Sendak's original drawings and paintings created from the 1950s through the 1980s, all of them gifted to Schiller's collectible company. The artwork comes in a variety of formats, and it will all be for sale — although some of the prices may leave fans gnashing their terrible teeth.

"It depends what selection one could buy — original drawings begin at about \$5,000. Pencil, to ink drawing, to full watercolor gets more expensive," said Schiller. "Any original Maurice piece is exciting to show off."

The show will also feature Sendak's three-dimensional plaster cow, "Moo-reese," which he created for the 2000 Manhattan Cow Parade. The bovine figure will be on sale for a whopping \$200,000, according to Schiller.

Those hunting for more affordable art can pick up vintage prints and posters made from Sendak's story books in 1971, which starting at about \$25, said Schiller, which the author made for just this purpose.

"He created images of his books, to have a print that can be hung on the wall without having to mutilate any of his story books," he said.

Brooklyn Antiquarian Book Festival at the Brooklyn Expo Center (79 Franklin St. at Noble Street in Greenpoint, www.brooklynbookfair.com). Sept. 8, 5-9 pm; Sept. 9, 11 am-7 pm; Sept. 10, 11 am-5 pm. \$5-\$25.



The wild rumpus: Artwork from "Where the Wild Things Are" and "In the Night Kitchen" creator Maurice Sendak will be on display at the Brooklyn Antiquarian Book Fair on Sept. 8-10.



Queen for a day: Kay Mason, nine-time Carnival Queen of the West Indian American Day Parade, is thrilled that the tradition has now lasted for 50 years.

Milestone march West Indian Day Parade and carnival turning 50 this year

By Nelson A. King
for Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's biggest parade goes gold! The West Indian American Day Parade has reached a golden milestone this year, celebrating 50 years of promoting Caribbean culture. The theme for this year's Carnival Week is "From a Dream to a Legacy" — an appropriate message as the parade looks forward to its next 50 years, said the president of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association.

"We are blessed to have marked 50 years of Caribbean impact, culture, education, economic contribution, services and carnival in New York state," said William Howard.

Making it to 50 is a major achievement, said one of its most colorful participants.

"It's good that we got to the 50th anniversary," said Kay Mason, a nine-time winner of the parade's Carnival Queen contest. "It's a milestone to bring this culture

together so we can celebrate."

Over the years, the festival has grown to include enough events to fill the Labor Day Weekend. Here are a few highlights:

Reggae Unda Di Stars

This funky reggae party kicks off four nights of Caribbean music on the grounds of the Brooklyn Museum. The night will feature reggae ambassadors Cocoa Tea, Ghanian dancehall reggae artist Stonebwoy, and Brooklyn's own Afrobeat songstress Wunmi. Musician Stephen "Ragga" Marley, the son of Bob Marley, will also appear to accept a special posthumous tribute to his iconic father.

Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, www.wiadcacarnival.org). Aug. 31; 7 pm-1 am. \$60 (\$125 VIP).

Brass Fest

This concert devoted to soca music, an offshoot of calypso, will star The All Stars,

Blaxx, Lyrikal, Farmer Nappy, Problem Child, and many more performers from around the Caribbean, along with Brooklyn group Rayzor & Request Band.

Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, www.wiadcacarnival.org). Sept. 1; 7 pm-3 am. \$65 (\$125 VIP).

J'ouvert Parade

This public street festival, whose name means "daybreak," traditionally starts in the pre-dawn hours. But violence in previous years has caused the city to move the start time to the moment of dawn, at 6 am. Expect lots of steel band music, police checking party-goers for alcohol and weapons — and an unofficial party starting at midnight the night before.

Parade starts at Grand Army Plaza (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights). Sept. 4 at 6 am. Free.

The Parade!

Thousands of celebrants in colorful outfits will parade down Eastern Parkway during the seven-hour festival, along with more sedately dressed politicians, including honorary Grand Marshals Gov. Cuomo and Mayor DeBlasio. More than a million visitors are expected to line the route, cheering on the parade.

Eastern Parkway (from Utica Avenue to Grand Army Plaza, www.wiadcacarnival.org). Sept. 4, 11 am-6 pm. Free.

DOGS!

Summer's tail

It really is the Dog Day of summer! The Brooklyn Public Library will celebrate National Dog Day on Aug. 26 with Pups on the Plaza, a canine carnival in front of its Central Library branch. The shindig will feature a doggie costume contest, dog-themed readings, pet adoptions, and free portraits for pups — activities that offer the perfect day for Brooklyn's pooch-loving bookworms, according to the event's organizer.



Gregg Richards

"We have a lot of dog lovers at the library, and in general I think Brooklyn has an amazing rescue community, and this was one way of celebrating that community," said Mike Fieni, the manager of community engagement for Brooklyn Public Library.

The day will begin with a doggy story time at 10 am, where librarians will read pup-related publications to a canine audience. At press time, the readers had not yet decided which shaggy dog story would get the nod, but the puppy show will definitely include puppets, according to Fieni.

Then, dogs will don their best costumes for a fashion show hosted by public radio journalist Sally Herships at 11 am. Extra points will go to haute hounds who put together a look with a literary theme — a challenge that Fieni predicts will spark genius befitting the authors being emulated.

"I think we're going to see some creativity," he said.

After the show, humans can get a free portrait of their dog drawn by illustrator Kate Gavino, of the book and blog "Last Night's Reading," or let their pups loose to splash in one of 12 doggie pools. The library will also roll out astro-turf so the fuzzleballs can prance without hurting their paws.

Those looking to add a new packmate to the family can meet new furry friends from four adoptions centers across the borough, which will have plenty of canines to choose from, Fieni said.

During the event, the library will also install two Dog Parkers, the lockable, temperature controlled huts where humans can temporarily stash their puppies, outside the book repository so literature lovers can take their dogs on a walk to the library without worrying about their safety.

The day will be a wagging good time for both dogs and their humans, Fieni said.

"We're really excited about it. I think it's going to be a fun day," he said.

Pups on the Plaza at Central Library (10 Grand Army Plaza at Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org). Aug. 26; 9:30 am-noon. Free. — Lauren Gill

MUSIC

Pan-tastic!



Pan Evolution

It's the battle of the pans!

Two different Brooklyn bands will vie for the crown at the Steel Band Panorama competition on Sept. 2, part of the weekend of events leading up to the West Indian Day Parade. The annual musical match-up draws a dozen acts from all over New York and New Jersey to the grounds of the Brooklyn Museum to compete for the title of best steel band, but the reigning champion and its closest competitor both hail from the county of Kings.

Favored front-runner D'Radoes Steel Orchestra, based in Canarsie, has taken the top spot every year since 2014. The popular band is one of the biggest ensembles in the competition, but all of its members have stuck around and are diligently working towards a fourth win, said the band's manager.

"We are intact with the same squad and we've been fortunate to be so successful over the last few years," said Tom Montvel-Cohen. "We are very humble with our hardworking approach."

The band's recent victories come from working closely together, but also having a good time, he said.

"Last year we really executed things really well — we were very organized in not only learning the music, but the logistics in getting everyone in the museum, setting up, and everything ran smoothly — it's really gratifying," said Montvel-Cohen. "You need good music and good players, but you also need to keep the morale and vibes high to keep the players happy and do what we need to be done."

The group's closest competition comes from rookie band Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra (pictured). The Brooklyn team made its first appearance at the competition last year and took second place — an incredible feat for the group, said the chairman of the band.

"We kind of expected to come in fifth place, but coming for our first year and coming in second — it was a great feeling for most of our players and management," said Matthew Bascombe. "We started in November 2015 and it was not even a full year of the band being in existence, but we have great players and we did a lot of hard work to get there."

This year, the Pan Evolution members are confident they can grab the gold, he said.

"If we fall short and come in second, we'll accept that — but our goal is to capture the win," said Bascombe.

Steel Band Panorama on the grounds of the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 638-5000, www.wiadcacarnival.org). Sept. 2 at 7 pm. \$50. — Alexandra Simon