

The Drawing Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, please contact
Emily Gaynor, 212-219-2166, ext. 214
egaynor@drawingcenter.org

THE DRAWING CENTER PRESENTS

The Big Draw

AS PART OF THE RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 18, 2009

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

A fun, free, day-long drawing event for all ages at Three Lower Manhattan venues

New York, May 13, 2009 – On Saturday, July 18, from 11am – 4pm, The Drawing Center and the River To River Festival will present *The Big Draw*, the fourth annual day-long celebration of drawing inspired by the wildly popular United Kingdom program of the same name. Bringing together artists and the local community, *The Big Draw* is a unique opportunity for people of all ages to join in hands-on artist-led projects that are guaranteed to change the way they think about drawing. Audiences will be encouraged to pick up a free sketchbook and express their creativity through inventive, site-specific projects at three Lower Manhattan venues: **The Bosque at Battery Park, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in New York, and the World Financial Center Winter Garden.**

The Drawing Center presents



The Drawing Center is pleased to announce that **Suzanne Bocanegra** and **Flux Quartet**, **Jeffrey Gibson** with **Larry Yazzie and the Native Pride Dancers**, and **Eve Mosher** will be participating in this year’s event:

- Artist **Suzanne Bocanegra** invites the public to create drawings on outdated and recycled music scores that will immediately be performed in ongoing improvisations by the renowned American string group, **Flux Quartet**. Using as a point of departure John Ruskin’s belief that drawing can be used to help us see, Bocanegra’s project expands upon this powerful idea, suggesting that drawing can be used to help us hear. Located at the World Financial Center Winter Garden, this event is the first in a series of public programs leading up to *Iannis Xenakis: Architect, Composer, Visionary*, which will open on January 14, 2010 at The Drawing Center and then travel to the Centre for Canadian Architecture in May 2010.
- **Jeffrey Gibson** and the National Museum of the American Indian in New York will explore how sound and movement can be captured through mark, gesture, and line. The celebrated group, **Larry Yazzie and the Native Pride Dancers**, will perform with live accompaniment, as Gibson invites audience members to draw the body in motion. This event will be held in the Diker Pavilion at the National Museum of the American Indian at One Bowling Green.

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- **Eve Mosher's *Paths of Desire*** will engage audiences in a self-guided personal exploration of the past and present geography of Lower Manhattan. Starting at the Bosque in Battery Park, participants trace their pathways by walking and carrying recycled water bottles filled with river water mixed with blue pigment and as the water drips out, the city turns into a drawing canvas. Prompting the public to remember the island's historical geography, this project brings Manhattan's current natural landscape into focus, along with the various paths of desire shaped by each individual's present-day wanderings.

For more information, please visit the websites of The Drawing Center (www.drawingcenter.org) and the River To River Festival (www.RiverToRiverNYC.com).

All of the events are FREE. The convenient Downtown Connection shuttle bus will offer quick and free transport between all of *The Big Draw* venues. For a map of the venues, please visit www.RiverToRiverNYC.com.

THE BIG DRAW VENUES

- **The Bosque in Battery Park**
Located to the south of Castle Clinton in Battery Park
- **The National Museum of the American Indian in New York**
Located in the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House
One Bowling Green across from Battery Park
- **The World Financial Center Winter Garden**
Located between Vesey and Liberty Streets and West Side Highway and the Hudson River

ABOUT THE RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL

The River To River Festival, presented by American Express, is a collaboration of Lower Manhattan's major cultural event producers including the Alliance for Downtown New York, arts>World Financial Center, Battery Park City Authority, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Port Authority of NY & NJ, and The Seaport. These partners are firmly committed to using the arts as a tool for revitalization and to the development of new audiences for the arts.

Free admission to River To River® events is underwritten by a wide range of funders, led by the Festival's Founding Title Sponsor, American Express. Major support is provided by the Festival's Producing Partners, including, NBC Local Media New York and WNYC New York Public Radio.

Vital support comes from Supporting Funders, including, Century 21 Department Stores, JetBlue Airways, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, KEXP, and The Village Voice. Participating Funders are CB Richard Ellis, EmblemHealth, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, The Moody's Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Marriott Downtown, New York State Council on the Arts, New York Stock Exchange Foundation, and TKTS Seaport.

CREDITS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the county to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org

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