

DrawNow!
StreetFest, Festival of Ideas for the New City

May 7, 2011, 11am–7pm



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The Drawing Center announces *DrawNow!* featuring artist-led projects by Jean Philippe Delhomme, Aida Miron and Uri Wegman, Sydney Skybetter, and Tae Won Yu. As a founding partner of the Festival of Ideas for the New City (May 4–8, 2011), The Drawing Center presents these projects in conjunction with the Festival’s one-day StreetFest on Saturday, May 7 from 11am–7pm. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to come together and experience drawing in new ways. All projects are free and no experience is necessary!

Part of The Big Draw – a celebration of drawing inspired by the wildly popular United Kingdom program of the same name – *DrawNow!* takes drawing to the streets in a series of spontaneous happenings set in plazas, on sidewalks, and in other public spaces. These four new site-specific projects will take place throughout the StreetFest, using The Drawing Center’s booth as a hub. Situated on the Bowery, just south of the New Museum’s entrance at the Prince Street crosswalk, the booth will be located inside of “The Worms,” a series of brightly colored modular accordion tents designed by Family and Play Lab. Encouraging public engagement, these projects are produced by Aimee Good, Director of Education and Community Programs.

Throughout the day, world-renowned illustrator and author of *The Unknown Hipster* blog, Jean Philippe Delhomme, will be roaming, observing, and conducting a “drawing reportage” of the StreetFest. Delhomme’s series of iPad drawings will comment on the Festival’s themes of The Heterogeneous City, The Sustainable City, The Reconfigured City, and The Networked City. These drawings will be uploaded to The Drawing Center’s Facebook page as they are created, and will later appear as an entry in *The Unknown Hipster* (unknownhipster.com).

At 5:00pm architects Aida Miron and Uri Wegman will meet at The Drawing Center's booth before proceeding to the Stanton Street pedestrian walkway in Sara D. Roosevelt Park. There, they will present *Drawing an Urban Intervention through Dialogue and Trace*, which revisits The Drawing Center's 2010 exhibition *Paul Rudolph: Lower Manhattan Expressway*. Contemplating Rudolph's history and our current urban environment, 15–20 participants will use drawing to envision the “new” city on a 10 x 50 foot sheet of paper. Responding to Rudolph's idea of ‘units,’ participants will be divided into groups that use either the human body or stencils to create a temporal-spatial construction. Bridges, networks, new temporalities and scales will emerge during the one-hour drawing session. The event will be filmed with cameras stationed at either end of the drawing. To sign up, participants can email agood@drawingcenter.org. Places will be reserved for the first 15 registrants, with a waiting list for subsequent registrants.

Starting at 3:00pm throughout the StreetFest, choreographer Sydney Skybetter's *DrawNow! Mass Movement (Just Don't Call It a Flash Mob)* will provide spontaneous eruptions of coordinated movement, choreographed by innovative dancemakers, Irfana Jetha, Gary Schaufeld, and Sam Siegal. Spontaneous mass movements taking place along the Bowery will feature dancers, pets, and music, exploring the notion of the embodied line and gesture as a form of drawing.

Throughout the day at The Drawing Center's booth, visual artist, designer, and musician Tae Won Yu will “fingerpaint” visitors' portraits on an iPad as part of *iPad Street Portraits*, a street portrait experiment. Visitors will be invited to sit down, relax, and have their portraits drawn. Each portrait will be linked to The Drawing Center's website and Facebook page, as well as the Festival's Flickr page, to provide a visual overview of the many faces of the StreetFest community.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jean-Philippe Delhomme was born in 1959 in the suburbs of Paris. His early ambition was to become a poster designer in the manner of Savignac and show his art out in the streets. His instantly recognizable style is world-renowned in a range of media – from television ads to boutique campaigns and fashion advertising, including Barneys and Saab in the United States. A Fashion illustrator and culture chronicler, he has published several collections of his drawings, such as *The Cultivated Life* (Rizzoli). He has also published 3 novels in France and writes for *Architectural Digest* (France) and French *GQ*. His work appears regularly in *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *GQ* (USA), *GCasa* (Italy), and has been commissioned by *Departures*, *Vanity Fair*, *W*, and *Interview*. His work has been exhibited in New York at Partners and Spade, Danziger Projects, Colette in Paris, Festival International de la Mode et de la Photographie, in Hyères (France), the Fashion

Illustration Gallery in London, Rocket Gallery in Tokyo, and the French Institute in Berlin, among other venues.

Aida Miron and Uri Wegman are part of the team of faculty who teach Architectonics, a first year design studio at The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture of The Cooper Union. Aida Miron, born in Guatemala City, studied Art and Architecture at the Cooper Union, Urbanism at the Bauhaus Stiftung in Dessau, and Architecture at the E.T.S.A.B of Barcelona. She has worked in a wide range of architectural, landscape, and urban projects in Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, New York, Mumbai, and Miami. Her project, *Berlin: Refugee Spaces*, was exhibited at the Bauhaus and the 4th International Architecture Biennale of Rotterdam. Her research, drawings, and writing are mainly influenced by literature, myths, and politics. She is currently focusing on urban issues in developing countries in Latin America using texts and maps as cross-overs. Uri Wegman is an architect and the director of Sarah Oppenheimer's studio, where he works on a wide range of projects integrating art and architecture. He is a faculty member at the Cooper Union where he teaches the first year studio.

Sydney Skybetter is a choreographer, curator, and consultant for performing arts organizations. After studying at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Columbia, and New York University, Sydney performed with Christopher Williams and the Anna Sokolow Foundation. His choreography has been presented in New York at the Dance Theater Workshop, La MaMa, and the Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, among many others. Sydney is a Founding Partner of Design Brooklyn, a Producer with the Dance[NOW] NYC Festival, a teacher for the NYU Tisch Dance Department, a lecturer on Dance History for the LEAP Program at St. Mary's College, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Gotham Arts Exchange / Zia Artists, the New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Awards Committee, and the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA. He received his Masters in Dance Performance and Choreography from NYU, where he was a Graduate Assistant in Dance History. www.skybetter.org

Tae Won Yu is a visual artist and designer best known for his handmade aesthetic in the field of graphic design, typography, and illustration. Tae Won Yu began his career as a musician in the seminal 90s punk band Kicking Giant. As a designer for K Records, Kill Rock Stars, Sub Pop, Merge, and others, his artwork has defined the aesthetics of underground music. Some of his most recognizable images include album covers for Versus, Built To Spill, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, and Beck. As a perpetual draftsman he has taken to the iPad as a distinct new medium to explore

the tradition of live sketching. His most recent work was featured in *Open Daybook*, a book (Random House) and exhibition presented at LACE in Los Angeles.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

StreetFest: Saturday, May 7, 11am–7pm

Festival of Ideas for the New City: May 4–8, 2011

Free Admission

CREDITS

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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL OF IDEAS FOR THE NEW CITY

The Festival of Ideas for the New City, May 4–8, 2011, is a major new collaborative initiative in New York involving scores of Downtown organizations, from universities to arts institutions and community groups, working together to affect change. A first for New York, the Festival will harness the power of the creative community to imagine the future city and explore the ideas destined to shape it. It will take place in multiple venues Downtown and is organized around three central programs: a three-day slate of symposia; an innovative StreetFest along the Bowery; and over eighty independent projects and public events. The Festival will serve as a platform for artists, writers, architects, engineers, designers, urban farmers, planners, and thought leaders to exchange ideas, propose solutions, and invite the public to participate. For more information, visit festivalofideasnyc.com.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country 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.