

The Municipal Art Society of New York

MASNYC

457 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022
212.935.3960
www.mas.org

Press Contact: Shea Communications
Alexis Schneider, George Shea 212-627-5766

For Immediate Release:

MAS ANNOUNCES JUNE PUBLIC TOURS AND BOOK EVENTS

*Tours of the Revitalized Newtown Creek, the Bronx's Concrete Plant Park,
and Old Favorite Grand Central Terminal Among Highlights*

New York, May 15, 2009--The Municipal Art Society of New York, a non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design, and preservation, has announced its public programs and tour schedule for the month of June.

Among the highlights are a tour of Newtown Creek's renaissance with a closer look at the NYC DEP Waste Water Treatment Plant and its adjacent nature trail; a tour of the Bronx's former concrete plant that is now a lush community-designed park, and a tour of Grand Central Terminal led by renowned architectural historian Francis Morrone. MAS' Urban Center Books will also present book talks on *The Once and Future New York* by Randall Mason and *Genius of Common Sense* by Glenna Lang & Majorie Wunsch, an introduction to the work of activist and author Jane Jacobs and written for middle-schoolers.

All programs will be held at The Municipal Art Society of New York at 457 Madison Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Due to limited capacity, reservations are strongly recommended. More information and a complete list of upcoming events in June are below:

Saturday, June 6, 2:00 p.m.

Heart of Flushing: The Past and Future of New York Walking Tour

One place to time to consider the Dutch colonial legacy in New York is Flushing, where a neighborhood uniquely rich in colonial history is now largely Asian. Back in the days of New Netherlands, the Dutch were East Asia's window on the West. The history comes full circle in Flushing, as nowhere else in the city. Leader: **Francis Morrone**, architectural historian. Meet at the S.E. corner of Main St. and Roosevelt Ave. \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Sunday, June 7, 10:00 am-Noon

Renaissance in Newtown Creek Tour

The environment of Newtown Creek suffered from merciless abuse and neglect for more than a century, but recent years have brought improvements. We'll view the stunning NYC DEP Waste Water Treatment Plant ("Digester Eggs") and walk along its adjacent George Trakas-designed Nature Trail. (What? a nature trail on Newtown Creek?) Then we'll cross the Pulaski Bridge to Long Island City, ending at a nexus of contemporary artists' working and exhibition spaces. Leader: Jack Eichenbaum, urban geographer. Meets at the N.E. corner of Greenpoint and Manhattan avenues. (Transit: G train to Greenpoint Ave.) Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Once and Future New York

Randall Mason, author

The author examines the emergence of historic preservation in New York urbanism. Against the charge that preservationists were merely antiquarians concerned only with a few high-style buildings, author Randall Mason argues that many were leading city builders and social reformers. \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

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Saturday, June 13, 11:00 a.m.

Walk West! Hell's Kitchen Walking Tour

The blocks west of Times Square still remain relatively unknown to tourists and even New Yorkers. Here is a neighborhood with a gritty past, distinguished by tenements and churches, as well as recent evidence of gentrification and renewal. Notable examples of adaptive reuse will be viewed, as well as structures associated with Hudson River waterfront and the nearby theater district. Leader: **Matt Postal**, architectural historian. Meet on the N.W corner of Ninth Avenue & 42nd Street. \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Sunday, June 14, 2:00 p.m.

Art Deco Central Park West Walking Tour

A pleasant stroll along Central Park West, for a closer look at the buildings that form Manhattan's major residential skyline. We visit the great twin-towered skyscraper-apartment buildings—the Century, the Majestic, and the Eldorado—and other multi-colored jazz-age fantasies of high living overlooking the Park. Leader: **Tony Robins**, architectural historian. Meet at the N.W. corner of Broadway and 61st, in front of the Bible Society. \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

*****FREE*** Genius of Common Sense**

Glenna Lang & Majorie Wunsch, authors

Book Launch & Celebration

This is the first book to introduce middle-school age young people to activist and author Jane Jacobs. In words and pictures, *Genius of Common Sense: Jane Jacobs and the Story of The Death and Life of Great American Cities* follows Jacobs from her Scranton childhood through her ground-breaking work and battles to save New York neighborhoods. Remarks by the authors and Nicholas O'Han, urban studies director, Elisabeth Irwin High School. Published by David R. Godine. On display: Robert Otter's stunning 1960s photos of New York. RSVP at MAS.org or call 212-935-2075

Saturday, June 20, 10:30 a.m.

Concrete Plant Park & Environs Tour

This tour is a window into the enormous challenges and impressive successes to be found in this section of the South Bronx. Here dedicated residents have fought for environmental justice and a concrete plant ruin has become a beautiful park, designed with the help of the community. Leader: **Alexie Torres-Fleming and colleagues**, Youth Ministry for Peace and Justice. Meet at YMPJ, 1384 Stratford Ave. (Transit: #6 train to Morrison/Sound View Ave., walk one block West to Stratford Ave. then North to YMPJ). \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Sunday, June 21, 11:00 a.m.

Boerum Hill Walking Tour

Boerum Hill's diverse religious edifices, civic buildings and commercial enterprises are a testament to our Dutch legacy of tolerance and commerce. We'll learn what happened to the Dutch farmstead of Simon Boerum as we view tranquil streets of fine old row houses and vibrant Atlantic Ave. Leader: **Joe Svehlak**, urban historian. Meet at the corner of Hanson and Ashland places, by the former Williamsburgh Savings Bank Tower. (Transit: #2, 3, 4, 5, & Q trains to Atlantic Ave.; N, R, D trains to Pacific St.) \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Wednesday, June 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

My Life as a Tour Leader

In celebration of the publication of The Municipal Art Society of New York - *10 Architectural Walks in Manhattan*, stellar tour leaders and co-authors **Francis Morrone** and **Matt Postal** will describe life on the street : good, the bad and the ugly. The lively discussion will be moderated by **Robin Lynn**, editor of the book, former Director of MAS Tours and a onetime tour leader herself. Autographed copies will be available for purchase. \$15 non-members, program free to MAS members. RSVP online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

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Saturday, June 27, 11:00 a.m.

L.E.S is More! Walking Tour

During the last few years, the Lower East Side has become one of the most exciting neighborhoods in New York City. There are now trendy boutiques, restaurants, and more than 50 art galleries, as well as the new Contemporary Art Museum. We will explore the art scene, looking at its different facets: galleries, design stores, street art and more. Leader: **Sylvia Laudien-Meo**, art historian. Meet on the N.E. corner of Orchard and Broome streets. \$15 non-members, program free to MAS members. RSVP online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

Sunday, June 28, 2:00 p.m.

Grand Central Terminal with Francis Morrone

Join us in celebration of the publication of the MAS book, *10 Architectural Walks in Manhattan*, by Francis Morrone and Matt Postal. Take a special tour of Grand Central Terminal, not only one of the city's great edifices, but also one in which the Municipal Art Society has long taken a keen and active interest. Leader: **Francis Morrone**, architectural historian. Meet outside in front of the Altria Building, 42nd Street at Park Avenue across the street from Grand Central. \$15, \$10 MAS members. Pay online at MAS.org or call 212 935 2075.

The Municipal Art Society of New York, founded in 1893, is a non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design and preservation through education, dialogue and advocacy. For more information, please visit www.mas.org.

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