

Your perfect weekend

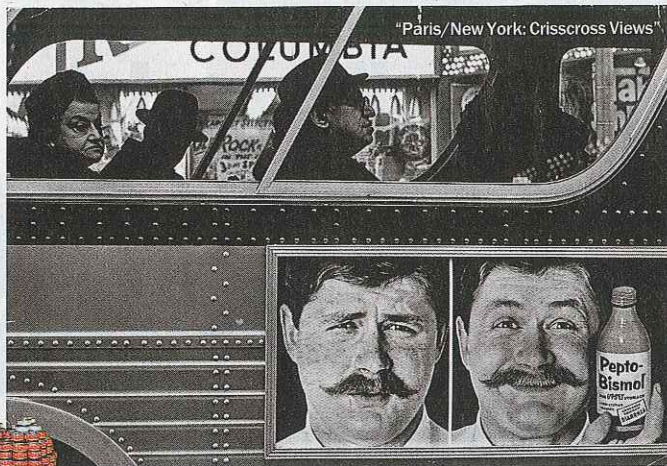
Friday, Nov 12

Each year, the humble canned good is transformed from a mere foodstuff to a larger work of art as part of **"Construction"** (World Financial Center Plaza, Winter Garden, 220 Vesey St at West St; 212-945-0505, artsworldfinancialcenter.com; daily 10am–7pm, Nov 22 10am–5pm; free; through Nov 22). Teams of engineers and architects work together to design the massive sculptures, assembled using as many as 6,000 individual cans of food; recent projects include a **"peace hand"** patterned like the American flag. Once the exhibit is over, the goods are donated to City Harvest.



The mere thought of bedbugs makes us shudder in disgust, but we're willing to suppress our revulsion during tonight's **Nerd Nite** (Galapagos Art Space, 16 Main St at Water St, Dumbo, Brooklyn; nyc.nerdnite.com. Trivia 7pm; \$14. Event 9pm; \$10). In addition to entomologist Gil Bloom's dissertation on the persistent insects (ick), journalist-engineer Olivia Koski will talk about laser technology, while Vote Reports founder Ben Woosley will explain the use of the Internet in political campaigns.

Saturday, Nov 13



Get a dose of high culture today, starting with **"Paris/New York: Crisscross Views"** (French Institute Alliance Française, 22 E 60th St between Madison and Park Aves; 646-388-6667, fiaf.org; Tue–Fri 11am–6pm, Sat 11am–5pm; free; through Jan 29), which focuses on the work of six photographers. The exhibit was planned to coincide with Mois de la Photo (or "Month of Photography"), a biennial event held in Paris. To pay homage, FIAF gathered images shot in either Paris (by American photogs) or New York (by French shutterbugs), showing how each artist chose to capture his or her adopted home.

Then, head downtown for *The New Yorker's* annual **Passport to the Arts** (begin at Animazing Gallery, 54 Greene St between Broome and Grand Sts; newyorkeronthetown.com/passport; 11am–3pm; \$45), a self-guided tour through the galleries of Soho and Chelsea. Simply pick up your "passport"—a small notebook that contains a map and descriptions of each stop—and start walking. As with any good museum visit, you'll get a pretty nifty souvenir at day's end: At each site, your booklet will get stamped with an image that was custom-made by artists you'll see on the tour (such as Roxy Paine and Henry Diltz).



Sunday, Nov 14



Has *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (see page 12) piqued your interest in American history? (No? Just Benjamin Walker's butt? We understand.) Learn about the seventh Prez's political forefathers on Barnet Schecter's **George Washington's New York** walking tour (location TBA; visit nyhistory.org for reservations and more details; 11am; \$20, New-York Historical Society members \$10), which traverses lower Manhattan. The route is based on a map Washington owned that plotted out sites downtown; you'll see those spots, as well as other historic locations that played a part in the first President's life.

If you find the Chelsea gallery scene to be slightly stuffy, fret not: There's an art festival for you this weekend. Arts in Bushwick holds its fourth annual **BETA Spaces** festival (Begin at Norte Maar, 83 Wyckoff Ave between Hart and Suydam Sts, Bushwick, Brooklyn; artsinbushwick.org; 11am–midnight; free), featuring more than 50 projects at art spaces around the neighborhood. (Check out "Found" at Surreal Estate, which challenged artists to create works using only found materials.) After you've seen the art, head back to Brooklyn Fire Proof East (119 Ingraham St at Porter Ave) for the finale, with live music from local bands.—Amy Platt

Best of the fests

5 Dutch Days 5 Boroughs Wednesday 17–November 21

The Dutch first settled in New York in the early 17th century and—perhaps feeling homesick after their long ocean crossing—named their fledgling settlement New Amsterdam. While our fair city has gained a new moniker, the Netherlands still has a strong presence here, as evinced by this annual festival. (The name itself is a misnomer—events only take place in Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan.) This year's happening is a collaborative effort between four Dutch cultural institutions—including Brooklyn's Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum and the Bronx's Dyckman Farmhouse Museum—and the programming is eclectic, with art exhibits, walking



tours and lectures among the offerings.

Get started with a guided tour of early-Renaissance painter Jan Gossart's work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Wed 17 11am–noon); for a more modern take on traditional Dutch art, head to Brooklyn for "Delft Blues," which features contemporary interpretations of **classic delftware** from more than 50 artists (Nov 19 5–8pm; Nov 20, 21 3–7pm). Don black-tie attire if you're hitting the 29th annual Peter Stuyvesant Ball (Nov 19 at 7pm), named after the 17th-century New



STREET FAIRS!

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York governor: After a gourmet meal, you'll watch a set by Dutch comedian Freek de Jonge and dance to Amsterdam's Wicked Jazz Sounds Band.

If you're hoping to spend time outside, join the bike tour led by Dutch New Yorker Ans Heerdink-Schickler (Nov 20 1:30–4:30pm), where you'll cycle around Dutch

buildings in Lower Manhattan, as well as Red Hook, Brooklyn, which was named for its rusty-hued soil. Locations, times and prices vary; visit 5dutchdaysnyc.org for details.—Sarah Rammos