



The Big Draw
Saturday, October 15, 2011 11am–4pm

Co-Presented by The Drawing Center and Smithsonian's
National Museum of the American Indian in New York, the
George Gustav Heye Center
Diker Pavilion, One Bowling Green, Across from Battery Park

For further information and images, please contact
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September 15, 2011

The Drawing Center and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York, the George Gustav Heye Center, co-present The Big Draw on Saturday, October 15 from 11am to 4pm. The Big Draw is an annual celebration of drawing inspired by the wildly popular United Kingdom program of the same name. Now in its sixth year in New York, The Big Draw has expanded from a one-day celebration to a series of drawing events that take place throughout the year. At the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, artist Maria Hupfield will lead participants in drawing activities that explore how sound and movement can be captured through mark, gesture, and imagery. Audiences of all ages are invited to join in a free day of drawing to express their creativity through this inventive, site-specific project. No experience is necessary and all materials are provided!

Throughout the day, renowned Thunderbird Native American Dancers will perform a variety of traditional dances, accompanied by The Heyna Second Sons Singers, a Native American musical group led by Louis Mofsie. Both Mofsie and dancers will provide commentary and explanation of the dances and songs, as Hupfield leads the public in drawing activities. Experimenting with various drawing methods, participants will create their own works that explore sound and movement through drawing. This event will be held in the Diker Pavilion at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York at One Bowling Green.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Louis Mofsie (Hopi/Winnebago) is the leader of The Heyna Second Sons Singers and Drum Group and the Artistic Director of the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers. After receiving his MA in Art Education from Hofstra University, Mr. Mofsie taught art for 35 years at the Meadowbrook School in East Meadow, New York. His lectures have been heard at the Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Columbia University, Wesleyan University and New York University, among others. Mr. Mofsie has curated exhibits at the Whitney Museum of American Art and was a guest artist in exhibits at the Walker Art Center and Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and at the Woodards Museum and the Gallup Ceremonials, both in Gallup, New Mexico. As an illustrator, Mr. Mofsie has published *The Hopi Way* (M. Evans & Co., Inc., 1969), *Coyote Tales* (Holt, Rinehard & Winston, 1974) and *Teepee Tales of the American Indian*. (Holt, Rinehard & Winston, 1979). He has choreographed productions for the Lincoln Center Repertory Company, the Mercer Arts Center and Theater for the New City. His recordings include *Songs and Dances of the American Indian* and *Authentic USA 1*. He has composed three original scores and developed work in collaboration with Tom Pearson/Third Rail Projects at Theater for the New City, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors.

Maria Hupfield is a graduate of the MFA program at York University, and holds a BA Specialist in Art and Art History from the University of Toronto and Sheridan College. Her work was recently exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta, and with the Crossing Collective as part of a performance exchange between Bbeyond Artist Collective, Belfast Ireland and SAW Gallery, Ottawa. Maria is of Anishnaabe (Ojibway) heritage, and a member of Wasauksing First Nation, in Ontario. Her work evidences the body as a site of resistance and agency through the use of actions, objects and images. Working across disciplines, she engages in intersecting points of dialogue between Western and non-Western visual representations and philosophical approaches. She is currently based in Brooklyn, NY.

HOURS

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 11am–4pm

ADMISSION

Admission to The Big Draw is FREE; all drawing materials provided

CREDITS

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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.

ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN IN NEW YORK, THE GEORGE GUSTAV HEYE CENTER

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, the George Gustav Heye Center, is located at One Bowling Green in New York City, across from Battery Park. The museum is free and open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays until 8 p.m. By subway, the museum may be reached by the 1 to South Ferry, the 4 or 5 to Bowling Green or the R to Whitehall Street. For information, call (212) 514-3700 or visit www.americanindian.si.edu.



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National Museum of the American Indian

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Images Available for Reproduction

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All Images: The Big Draw 2009, part of The River To River Festival. Project by artist Jeffrey Gibson at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York. July 18, 2009. Photo by Abbey Braden © 2009 Downtown Alliance.