

Bard Graduate Focus Gallery Presents 'Visualizing 19th Century New York'

NEW YORK CITY — Nineteenth Century New York City was a visual experience — a spectacle for resident and visitor alike. "Visualizing 19th Century New York," on view at the Bard Graduate Center Focus Gallery through January 11, examines how New York's cultural entrepreneurs turned to the production of woodcuts, aquatints, lithographs and photographs to make sense of their booming metropolis, and to promote their own manufactures to a national and international market.

Anchoring the exhibit is "Broadway" — New York's great thoroughfare — which dominated the burgeoning number of images of the city that poured out of commercial publishing firms and into American homes in the Nineteenth Century. Visitors strolling through the gallery — in effect strolling along Broadway — will encounter the storefronts and works of four of the nation's leading visual entrepreneurs: Mathew Brady (daguerreotypes), Edward and Henry T. Anthony (stereoviews), Currier & Ives (lithographs), and Harper & Brothers (woodcuts in popular magazines and books). The final section presents a model middleclass, Nineteenth Century parlor, its center table laden with the kinds of materials that a midcentury family might own, such as a stereoviewer and a copy of *Harper's Weekly*.

The exhibition explores not only the changing city, but also the evolving visual genres and technologies that were used at the time. An interactive digital screen takes the visitor "behind the scenes" of the featured entrepreneurs' estab-

lishments to see the varying technical processes used to produce these popular products and the male and female workers who made them. Another interactive screen focuses on the key intersection of Broadway and Ann Street, where P.T. Barnum's American Museum stood, along with other important urban attractions.

"Visualizing 19th Century New York" is accompanied by a digital publication that offers a spatial interface to the exhibit materials by placing objects, landmarks and central themes on Matthew Dripps' Map of the City of New York (1851). These spatial tags are connected to essays that explore objects and themes in the exhibition, like bird's-eye city views and technical processes, such as stereoscopic photography, as well as related historical topics, including the spectacle of Broadway or how oysters

Edward Anthony and Henry T. Anthony, "Broadway on a Rainy Day [looking north]," 1859, from "Anthony's Instantaneous Views, No. 188," hand colored albumen silver print from glass negative (stereoscopic views). Collection of David Jaffee.

became a popular food among all classes of New Yorkers.

"Visualizing 19th Century New York" is curated by Bard Graduate Center professor David Jaffee and the students who participated in his year-long Focus Gallery project sequence of academic courses.

The Bard Graduate Center Gallery is at 18 West 86th Street, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. The Focus Gallery presents small-scale exhibitions. For more information, 212-501-3011 or www.bgc.bard.edu.



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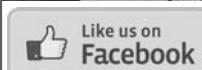
740-569-2800

Contemporary Art & Asia Subject Of Japan Society Directors Talk

NEW YORK CITY — On Thursday, October 30, at 6:30 pm, as part of Asian Contemporary Art Week, Japan Society Gallery Director Miwako Tezuka talks to Melissa Chiu, incoming director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, about her new role and perspective on contemporary Asian art. The talk will be followed by a reception; the cost is \$18 for Japan Society members and \$15 for seniors and students, which includes exhibition admission.

Japan Society is at 333 East 47th Street between First and Second Avenues. For information, 212-832-1155 or www.japansociety.org.

BARRE, VT. — A workshop on the basics of identifying and preserving photographs will be offered on Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to noon, at the Vermont History Center, 60 Washington Street, given by Maureen Taylor who is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation and family history research. The workshop fee is \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. For information, 802-828-2180 or www.vermonthistory.org.



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