



Events Calendar

Organizations

Features

Map

Get Involved

Mobile

Video

Kids

Editors' Picks



Winter Solstice Celebration
Cathedral of Saint John the Divine
Dec 18, 2014 - Dec 18, 2014

1 2 3 4

DECEMBER 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Cultural Guide for Seniors

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Visualizing 19th-Century New York

Fri, Sep 19, 2014 - Sun, Jan 11, 2015



Lyman W. Atwater, after Charles Parsons.
Chromolithograph, published by Currier & Ives. Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society.

\$7

GENERAL

\$5

ADULTS

The Bard Graduate Center Gallery is located in New York City at 18 West 86th Street, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Suggested admission is \$7 general, \$5 seniors.

Description

School/Groups

Nineteenth-century New York City was a visual experience, a spectacle for resident and visitor alike. This Bard Graduate Center Focus Gallery exhibition examines how New York's cultural entrepreneurs turned to the production of woodcuts, aquatints, lithographs, and photographs in order to make sense of their booming metropolis and to promote their own manufactures to a national, indeed international, market.

Anchoring the exhibit are visions of Broadway, which dominated the burgeoning number of visual images of New York that poured out of commercial publishing firms and entered American homes in the nineteenth century. New York City in general and Broadway in particular were the site of the nation's leading visual entrepreneurs. As visitors stroll around the gallery, and in effect along Broadway, they will encounter the storefronts and the works of four key visual entrepreneurs: Mathew Brady (daguerreotypes), Edward Anthony (stereoviews), Currier & Ives (lithographs), and Harper Brothers (woodcuts in *Harper's Weekly*). The final section of the exhibition is a model nineteenth-century parlor, its center table laden with the kind of materials that a mid-century middle class family might own, such as a stereoviewer and a copy of *Harper's Weekly*.

Along the way, an interactive digital screen focuses on one of Broadway's leading corners—Broadway and Ann Street—where P. T. Barnum's American Museum stood, along with other important urban attractions. Another interactive screen will take you "behind the scenes" of the four establishments to see the varying image-making technical processes and the men and women workers who made these popular products.

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 the 1851 Matthew Dripps Map of the City of New York, along with essays on objects in the exhibition, including bird's-eye city views, technical processes such as stereoscopic photography, and historical topics such as the spectacle of strolling on Broadway or how oysters became a popular food among all classes of New Yorkers.

The exhibition is curated by David Jaffee along with Bard Graduate Center students who participated in an innovative year-long sequence of academic courses. Students were critical collaborators in all facets of the exhibit, helping to research and develop the Gallery interactive applications and writing the texts that appear both in the gallery and in the digital publication

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Barbara Nessim: An Artful Life
Fri, Sep 19, 2014 - Sun, Jan 11, 2015

Barbara Nessim's distinctive graphic style has appeared on the covers of numerous American magazines, including *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, ...

Updated: September 15, 2014