

### **MOMA PS1**

22-25 Jackson Ave., Queens (718-784-2084)—“**Greater New York 2010.**”

Through Oct. 13. | “**The Comfort of Strangers.**” The four New York artists in this exhibition will most likely be strangers to many viewers—although Judith Bernstein, Sylvia Sleigh, Leslie Thornton, and Jack Whitten have had thriving careers since the seventies or eighties, their names hardly qualify as marquee. Cecilia Alemani has curated a thoughtful show that does more than introduce these accomplished artists to new audiences; it reveals an unexpected compatibility between their very different styles. The tight networks of grooves in Whitten’s abstractions bring out the densely patterned backgrounds in Sleigh’s portraits, whose eroticism is, in turn, underscored by Bernstein’s massive charcoal drawings of spiralling screws. All are complemented by the oneiric soundtrack to Thornton’s mind-bending video “Peggy and Fred in Hell: The Prologue.” Through Sept. 5. (Open Thursdays through Mondays, noon to 6.)

## Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave at 82nd St (212-535-7710, [metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org)). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Tue–Thu, Sun 9:30am–5:30pm; Fri, Sat 9:30am–9pm. Suggested donation \$20, seniors \$15, students \$10, members and children under 12 free.

**“Between Here and There: Passages in Contemporary Photography”** This roundup of photographic works from the past 40 years focuses on that all-too-familiar sensation of feeling displaced, dislocated or alienated in the modern world. The show features an all-star roster of artists—Vito Acconci, Ed Ruscha, Rineke Dijkstra and Thomas Struth, to name a few—who explore the theme from various angles, from the personal to the global. Through Feb 13.

**\* “Hipsters, Hustlers and Handball Players: Leon Levinstein’s New York Photographs, 1950–1980”** In these works by the famed street photographer, his compassion for his subjects shines. Through Oct 17.

**\* “Picasso in the Metropolitan Museum of Art”** Focusing on the museum’s holdings, this show includes more than 250 drawings, paintings and ceramics. Through Sun 15.

**\* “Doug + Mike Starn On the Roof: Big Bambú”** A cresting wave greets visitors to the Met’s famous rooftop terrace. Through Oct 31.

## MoMA PS1

22-25 Jackson Ave at 46th Ave, Long Island City, Queens (718-784-2084, [ps1.org](http://ps1.org)). Subway: E, M to 23rd St–Ely Ave; G to 21st St–Jackson Ave; 7 to 45th Rd–Court House Sq. Mon, Thu–Sun noon–6pm. Suggested donation \$10, seniors and students \$5.

**\* “The Comfort of Strangers”** In this exhibition, four previously unrelated New York artists are juxtaposed in order to present the opposing dualities of form and function. Jack Whitten’s geometric forms are hung alongside Sylvia Sleight’s portraits and Judith Bernstein’s politically charged charcoal drawings. A highlight is the lifelong work of Leslie Thornton, a piece called *Peggy and Fred in Hell* that took almost 20 years to make. Through Sept 5.

**\* “Greater New York”** This survey of art in New York will showcase the work of 68 local artists, and is one of the important exhibitions of contemporary art today. Through Oct 18.

## The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Ave at 36th St (212-685-0008, [themorgan.org](http://themorgan.org)). Subway: 6 to 33rd St. Tue–Thu 10:30am–5pm, Fri 10:30am–9pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–6pm. \$12; seniors, students and children 12–16 \$8; children under 12 free.

**“Defining Beauty: Albrecht Dürer at the Morgan”** These eight drawings show the exceptional variety in the great German artist’s approach to draftsmanship. Through Sept 12.

**“Romantic Gardens: Nature, Art, and Landscape Design”** These texts and pieces of art reflect the Romantic regard for nature, particularly through the appreciation of private grounds and gardens. Through Aug 29.

## Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art (MoCCA)

594 Broadway between E Houston and Prince Sts, suite 401 (212-254-3511, [moccany.org](http://moccany.org)). Subway: B, D, F, M to Broadway–Lafayette St; N, R to Prince St; 6 to Bleecker St. Tue–Sun noon–5pm. Suggested admission \$5, children 12 and under free.

**\* “Neointegrity: Comics Edition”** Curated by the author of the Neointegrity

## Critics’ picks



Sylvia Sleight, Paul Rosano in Jacobson Chair

### PAINTING

#### “The Comfort of Strangers”

MoMA PS1; see Museums  
Contrary to the show’s title, the portraits by Sylvia Sleight seem to capture that comfortable moment between friends and lovers, often her own, when no one feels compelled to speak.

### MIXED MEDIA

#### “Grass Grows by Itself”

Marlborough Chelsea; see Chelsea  
It’s hard to imagine something delicate and beautiful emerging from a tire, yet Chakaia Booker’s *Empty Seat* is exactly that, turning the drab material into a lyrical, imaginative form.

FREE

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### “Behind the Curtain”

Howard Greenberg Gallery; see 57th Street area  
Miroslav Tichy’s photographs, most surreptitiously taken of women on the street or in their own backyards, would seem a bit creepy were it not for their lasting beauty.

FREE

manifesto, Keith Mayerson, this dense survey features 210 illustrators and cartoonists, from the well-known to the relatively undiscovered, who use iconography to both reflect and dissect contemporary culture. Through Aug 29.

## Museum of Arts & Design

2 Columbus Circle at Broadway (212-299-7777, [madmuseum.org](http://madmuseum.org)). Subway: A, C, B, D, 1 to 59th St–Columbus Circle. Tue, Wed, Fri–Sun 11am–6pm; Thu 11am–9pm. \$15, seniors and students \$12, members and children 12 and under free. Thu 6–9pm pay what you wish.

**\* “Dead or Alive”** Artists from all over the world—Nick Cave, Tim Hawkinson and Damien Hirst, among many others—are included in this show of work that highlights the use of living (or once-living) organisms. Through Oct 31.

## Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

11 W 53rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-708-9400, [moma.org](http://moma.org)). Subway: B, D, F, M to 47–50th Sts–Rockefeller Ctr; E, M to Fifth Ave–53rd St. Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun 10:30am–5:30pm; Fri 10:30am–8pm. Thursdays in July and Aug open until 8:45pm. \$20, seniors \$16, students \$12, children under 17 free. Fri 4–8pm free. Film tickets free with museum admission; screenings-only admission \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6, children under 17 free.

**\* “Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913–1917”** Between 1913 and 1917, the legendary artist produced some of the most abstract and mysterious works of his painting career. Often regarded as a response to Cubism, these pieces sometimes seem as if they were produced by the hand of another individual entirely, yet they provide context and insight into the rest of his oeuvre. Through Oct 11.