

# The Week in New York

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Interactive Median  
 Revenue Dress Acting  
 As a Social Interface

## Free for all

The 12th annual Art in Odd Places returns with street art and performances to spark commentary on race in the U.S. By *Dorkys Ramos*

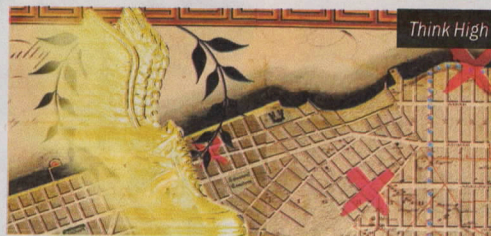


The 3-Headed,  
 Multiracial, Cargo  
 Pocket Creature

ONE OF THE greatest things about living in New York City is the fact that art and culture are accessible to all, wherever you look. Whether you witness a subway-station jam session, Shakespeare performances in parking lots or the brief appearance of a sculpture of a nude politician in the park, a stroll around town can expose you to art without you ever needing to set foot inside a gallery.

Art in Odd Places, a grassroots project founded by multidisciplinary artist and educator Ed Woodham, celebrates art for the masses by bringing visual and performance pieces to unexpected spots throughout the city and lower Manhattan for four days. This year's festival features 34 artists and their creations in sculpture, photography, video, dance and other media chosen by curators based on how the art interacts with the public, its unique take on the year's theme, race, and the lasting impression it leaves on the viewer.

"I think art is meant to prompt a slow looking that ushers in a new way to think about self and society," says Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi, a cocurator of the festival. "Public art often captures attention but, at times, for the wrong reason. So the projects will meet the audience halfway



Think High

in encouraging a slow meditation on the commons as a space for discourse."

The ongoing public unrest concerning police killings and the mistreatment of black lives make this year's theme a pertinent one. In Nyugen Smith and Geraldo Mercado's performance piece, which begins in Harlem and ends on 14th Street, the artists run downtown and make pit stops at culturally significant sites, where they recite historical details and poetic responses.



The RedLine  
 Archive

WHITEMANINMYPOCKET(S), by Kenya (Robinson) covers 14th Street with 10,000 die-cut magnets depicting a small figurine named Dave Fowler, a talisman she been toting around since her boss used it to explain the concept of privilege. "I've been carrying the #WHITEMANINMYPOCKET since 2013 as means to pry whiteness from privilege," she says. "It's been a reminder that all hierarchies are ideas, and ideas can be changed, updated or discarded."

Alexandra Antoine's project *I Am a Hueman* invites the public to make statements about how their heritage and hue has added value to their humanity. "By inserting and emphasizing the *hue* in *human*, I am acknowledging people of color and their humanity, which too often is not appreciated or respected," says Antoine.

If you're pressed for time, catch Critical Mass (Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 from 1 to 4pm), where several artists' works converge at once. And if you're itching to add to the conversation, head to the open mic at Speaker's Corner (Saturday 8 from 1 to 4pm) to exercise your freedom of expression in front of a crowd. Because aren't we all creators of this tapestry in some way?

→ Art in Odd Places is on 14th Street from the Hudson River to Avenue C Thu 6–Sun 9 ([race.artinoddplaces.org](http://race.artinoddplaces.org)). Free.

PHOTOGRAPHS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): MEGAN MARLATT; THE 3-HEADED, MULTIRACIAL, CARGO POCKET CREATURE; DOMINIQUE PULLI; INTERACTIVE MEDIAN REVENUE DRESS; ACTING AS A SOCIAL INTERFACE; WALLS; JOHNISON, MURRAY, COX & AMEL; VONDEBEL; THE REDLINE ARCHIVE; COURTESY OF ARTIST; NYUGEN SMITH & GERALDO MERCADO; THINK HIGH; COURTESY OF ARTIST