



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 4/10: NO SKATING
 (Easter Egg Roll)

SUNDAY, 4/11: SKATING DAY
 Easter Sunday

SATURDAY, 4/17: SKATING DAY
 Whitney Biennial

SUNDAY, 4/18: SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, 4/24: NO SKATING
 (Parkinson's Walk)

SUNDAY, 4/25: SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, 5/ 1: SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, 5/2: SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, 5/8: SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, 5/9: SKATING DAY

SATURDAY, 5/15: NO SKATING
 (Aids Walk setup)

SUNDAY, 5/16: NO SKATING
 (Aids Walk)

SATURDAY, 5/22: SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, 5/23: SKATING DAY
 Pet Adoption event

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2003 from April 11th to October 31st. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

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CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman

Bob Nichols

Bill Levy

Muhammed Abdul-Aziz

Calvin Coleman

Carol Spalding

Steven Myrick

Charles Threatt

PAF in CP

by Lezly Ziering

For the 2004 Biennial Exhibition, the Public Art Fund, in an ongoing collaboration with the Whitney Museum of American Art, will present nine works by seven artists throughout Central Park. This year's exhibition opens in two parts - on March 10th and April 17th.

On April 17th the Central Park Dance Skaters will be honored with an installation created by two magnificent artists - assume vivid astro focus (avaf), whose work is presently on view at the Whitney; and Rama Chorpash, whose industrial designs are both are unique and beautiful. Rama & avaf have come to love the ambiance and the sense of community, mutual love and affection that flows from this jumble of multifaceted humanity that we call the Skate Circle. We who have dedicated ourselves to this weekend celebration have always been proud to be a part of this coming together of all races and creeds that has been admired by so many of the people who come to watch. Our spec-

tators are struck by this micro-cosmic example of how the communities of the world should coexist, without prejudice, without concern for color of skin or religion. Rama and avaf have been regular visitors to "our thing," and when the opportunity presented itself they selected us for their project, eschewing other locations presented to them, requesting the Skate Circle as their canvas. This year they will no longer be just watchers; they have recently purchased quads and will be joining us this season on Skaters Road. I consider myself fortunate to have come to know these two beautiful human beings who give unstintingly of themselves and I am overwhelmed by the creativity and ingenuity of the work they will be contributing to our group.

Rama is concerned with researching and constructing a new DJ booth with barricades and benches with an eye to beauty and hi-tech functionality. His experience is vast and varied. I quote a few excerpts from his bio:

Rama designs not just a product, but is often involved in the entire production process. Paying careful attention to material sourcing, labor, and cultural context - for him, a product is not just the end users experience, but also its full relationship to the world. Rama designs benchmark products, done just a few at a time, thereby employing a high level of personal dedication. As a Senior Designer with Swatch Watch, Rama helped found the Swatch Lab New York, designing many collections over three years. He participated in the design of the Centennial Olympic Pavilion and his works have been exhibited in several museums and galleries including the Bienal da Prata in Portugal. His projects have been featured in numerous publications including: The New York Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, ABC's Good Morning America, Oprah, Vogue, Surface, and Metropolis. Rama has taught at the Pratt Institute and is presently an assistant professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

(Continued on page 2.)



These die-hard skaters braved the elements of bitter cold Winter '04.



Allison and Elisabeth practice new variations on "the shuffle."

Photo ©2004, Bob Nichols

Continued on page 1.

In the Skate Circle, avaf will install a unique floorscape of vinyl patches covered with his imaginative, exquisite and very colorful artwork. In an e-mail avaf said:

"I've always dreamt about doing a public project where your work can be exposed to people who otherwise would never see it. I feel that it is restrictive and boring to make a work of art just for people of the art world. I prefer to establish a dialog with an existing community. I came upon just such a community when I moved to New York from Brazil, with all these utopian dreams and expectations about this city. When I first went to the Skaters Road in Central Park it was like seeing a dream come true. All these people of different colors, ages, and sexual orientations, all together, having fun, roller dancing. Whenever I would have friends over from out of town I would always take them there."

public art project."

"When I learned that I was one of those 10 artists, I decided that it was really important for me to develop a project that would have some sort of feedback from the city or from a specific community. It came to me then that I wanted my project to pay homage to the skaters of the Skate Circle in Central Park. My research revealed that they were in fact a tight knit community, making it even more interesting for me. Reading the CPDSA's newsletters I realized the political implications of their struggle to keep skating alive in Central Park beginning in the mid 90's when the Parks Dept. and the City tried to shut down their music. This awareness made the project, in my view, gain even more power and reason for its existence."

I hope that we will all appreciate the talent and the humanity of these two superb human beings who have honored us with their artistry and their recognition of the unique entity that is the Skate Circle. I hope you will come to know them and love them as I do. Thank you avaf and Rama - it is my pleasure to welcome you, my friends to Skaters Road.

Michael F. Kelly L. Ac., ADS

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Dr. Janis Brody
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(St. Martin's Press)

Janis' book has been recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon.com's Top 10 Family List



Photo ©2004, Bob Nichols

The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

Another long winter is finally over. A new skating season is about to begin and we must wonder what it will bring. On Skaters Road, every year is different, as the world changes, we change with it; new challenges arise and we are always prepared - for last year's problems. This will be the tenth season that the CPDSA has acted on behalf of the skaters to obtain all the official permits and meet all requirements necessary to play music and dance-skate in Central Park. Before the CPDSA there was a tradition - stretching back to 1978 - of DJs running the Circle.

Playing music and skating in the park used to be simple. The problem began in the first year of the Guiliani administration, when public assembly laws were changed so that any gathering of more than twenty-five people without a permit became illegal. Now, music cannot be played in a NYC Park without an Amplified Music Permit from the local police precinct; to get it you must have a Special Events Permit from the Department of Parks.

However, the conventional use of a radio, tape or CD player is a right each of us retains. When Leroy brings his vintage boombox out in the middle of winter and plays music for the diehard skaters, he is well within his rights, same goes for Jay, Nick or Richard. The Constitution of the United States of America says: "Congress shall make no law.... abridging the freedom of speech... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble." We might be walking a fine line here, but some of us would fight this case right up to the Supreme Court, because we love skating in the park.

Fortunately, the Winter Circle is usually smaller than 25 people, the boombox doesn't bother anyone and the people who enforce the rules are reasonable; as long as the music doesn't get so loud that it disturbs people, we can skate. The point I'm trying to make here is that our rights are like our bodies, if we don't exercise them, they will atrophy and we

will lose the power to use them.

It is easy to see why the city wants an organized skating event in the summer, when hundreds of skaters and observers crowd our corner of Central Park. Our group transforms an empty stretch of roadway into a skate party; guards enforce common sense rules to keep the rink safe, boundaries delineate the skating areas to keep hapless spectators from wandering into a fast moving rink. Our nurse tends to the first-aid needs of skaters and non-skaters alike. Our cleanup crews leave the grounds as clean and litter free as they were when we set up. Parks rules against alcohol, other illegal substances and sales of merchandise are enforced. The Parks Dept. also communicates through us to reach the skate community and let them know when a large special event will preempt our activity.

This year brings a special honor and recognition to the Skate Circle in the form of an art installation sponsored by the Public Art fund and the Whitney Biennial. The artist, assume vivid astro focus will bring a bit of his vision to us with huge colorful stickers to brighten the pavement while his collaborator, designer Rama Chorpash, will add a touch of fantasy by reinventing the canopy for the DJ booth. The project is called "avaf 8."

I was skeptical about this event at first, but something the artist "assume vivid astro focus" wrote, let me know his heart was in the right place. When he moved here from Brazil, he had utopian dreams and expectations of New York and for him the Skate Circle was a dream come true. We skaters know what he recognized in the Circle - the motion, the freedom, the passion, the open arm welcome to all skaters and dancers - is something hard to explain to the uninitiated and yet we feel it and know it is real. After all, many of us are artists and we support the arts; in fact, since dance is one of the arts, you might say that we dance skaters are artists, too.

The Skate Circle Lives!



The beat goes on all winter long when Nick and Leroy are around.

Photo ©2004, Bob Nichols



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The CPDSA would like to thank



for their generous support.



April 17, 2004 - 1pm - 3pm

by Terri Seiden

On April 17th at 1pm; the official opening of the 2004 Skate Season; "avaf 8" by the artist assume vivid astro focus debuts 'on' the Skate Circle. "avaf 8" is a mammoth psychedelic vinyl sticker covering the entire surface of the Skate Circle WHICH WE CAN SKATE DIRECTLY ON TOP OF. Coinciding with the debut of "avaf 8" is a special performance by the Los Angeles based band Los Super Elegantes from 1pm - 3pm.

A collaboration between the Whitney Museum Biennial and the Public Art Fund strives to bring art outside the traditional museum and gallery context. After a lengthy nomination and selection process seven artists were chosen from a field of hundreds to bring their art to the public realm. There are several exhibitions in the park; but, none so dynamic as to incorporate the community into the actual art. assume vivid astro focus, whose art has been shown at such presti-

gious places as Deitch Gallery in Soho and presently at the Whitney, recognized his inclusion in this project was an opportunity to realize a dream to break the mold and develop a piece that would create a dialogue within an existing community; outside the constraints of the traditional art world. The art of assume vivid astro focus is inspired by Brazilian pop music, coloring books, op art, psychedelic album covers, fashion and the world at large. His creation of this spectacular floorscape is an homage to skaters and a stage on which we may bring our art to life.

Moving from Brazil, assume vivid astro focus had a vision of New York honed on movies and tv; a cinema-phile's perspective of NYC. Hypnotized by his discovery of the Skate Circle it was "like finding the NYC archetype;" the frenetic pulse of people and music, almost a fantasy, fulfilling utopian dreams and expectations of

Gotham. It became a place to bring friends visiting from around the world - where they were as hypnotized by watching as we are by skating. It was the energy and diversity; with skaters of every race, age, sexual orientation and lifestyle coming together seamlessly on a strip of ordinary pavement in the middle of Central Park "reminiscent of the movie HAIR" which inspired and piqued his curiosity.

Delving into the skate community; speaking with skaters, CPDSA organizers and reading newsletters, he discovered how the Skate Circle fit into the park and community at large. Surprised to learn that we are an organized entity operating within the limitations and constraints of the parks department and city bureaucracy added a political component to this project. The motivation was now to create a project with a purpose. I think his art represents the energy, synergy and dynamic

state of the Skate Circle. That his art is supported by the powerful entities at the Whitney and Public Art Fund helps to validate our place within the park.

"avaf 8" is not just an homage to dream like ideas but a figurative and literal frame for the dialogue skaters have with each other and those who are transformed by merely watching. Come and be part of this virtual moving monument to the city where assume vivid astro focus has conceived a piece where the skaters are as integral to the art as the paint itself.

On a technical note; the vinyl surface was tested for durability and skate-ability in a variety of settings and conditions before being given the thumbs up to proceed. With all the foot, bike and skate traffic in the park we are unsure how long the sticker will remain - so come help launch the 2004 skate season and take a photo.

Join us!

CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Business Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Fax _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Amount of Contribution

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Check Cash Money Order

New Member Renewal

Please cut out this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA headquarters address listed below.

You can get additional applications and more information from Lezly Ziering at the CPDSA Skate Circle, located mid-park at the foot of the bandshell. You can find us by entering Central Park at 72nd street and walking along Olmsted Way toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our dance music. You can't miss us.

Member # _____

Date _____



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