

GORDON
MATTACK-
CLARK
ANARCHITECT

ON VIEW NOVEMBER 8, 2017- APRIL 8, 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to The Bronx Museum of the Arts! This guide is designed to engage families in the galleries. It highlights select artworks with background stories, questions, and activities. Our goal is to help you and your family members of all ages enjoy art together.

- **At the start, you will find some quick tips for families trips to the museum. We recommend reviewing these before heading into the galleries.**
- **Then start the artwork scavenger hunt that will lead you through the exhibition.**

Please share any questions or comments you may have about this guide by filling out the comment cards at the front desk or by emailing education@bronxmuseum.org. We greatly value your feedback!

QUICK TIPS

You're welcome to **spend as much or as little time** in the galleries as you'd like. There are a lot of artworks here - don't feel pressured to see all them all in one visit! We recommend spending about an hour in the galleries.



If you feel tired or restless, **take a break** in the café or come visit us again another day. Admission is always free!



We ask you to help **keep the artwork safe** by not touching them or the display cases and pedestals.

Explore art with your eyes, not your hands.



Keep an eye out for artworks displayed not just on the walls in front of you, but also on walls behind you, the floors, and even the ceiling!



In short – **be aware of your surroundings.**



Talking is not just okay – it's encouraged!

Art sparks great conversations.

If you need any help or have a question, **ask a security guard.**



They're here to keep you, your fellow visitors, and the artworks safe.



Hungry? Thirsty? Head over to the café! There you can enjoy your own food/beverages brought from home, or purchase something.

Just remember to store all food/beverages in your bag or throw them in the trash/recycling bins before entering the galleries.

A **single-stall family restroom** is available in the main lobby, to the right of the front desk. More restrooms are just down the stairs.



There is also a **changing station** in the restroom located to the left of the South Wing elevator (front desk staff can point it out to you).

Got a stroller?

Please leave it at the front desk before entering the galleries.



During your visit, you may want to step right up to an artwork to get a closer look. Unfortunately this is TOO close!

Instead of standing close to an artwork, we like to use **active looking**. This means looking at the work for several minutes and looking from different places (from the left, right, sitting, standing). The longer you look, the more you see!

You can also **make a "telescope" with your hand** like this and peer through. Your "telescope" will help you discover even more details.



GETTING STARTED

Today, we'll embark on a scavenger hunt through the exhibition *Gordon Matta-Clark: Anarchitect*. As explorers, we'll solve clues to find artworks.

Gordon Matta-Clark (1943 – 1978) was born and raised in New York City. He studied architecture and graduated from Cornell University in 1968, then returned to his hometown the following year. Living during a time of turmoil in the city, when buildings were crumbling from age and social policies were neglecting New Yorkers, Matta-Clark began to explore how architecture could best serve the community, combining activist concerns with artistic production. He was an artist, architect, and activist!



ART can be anything, anywhere! A word to the wise, Matta-Clark's artworks might not look like "typical art." In the galleries, you won't see landscapes paintings, marble statues, or posed portraiture.

Where do you usually see art? Why types of art have you seen before? In your opinion, what is art?



ARCHITECTURE is a general term for buildings and structures made by people for practical purposes. Houses, bridges, monuments, and bus stops are all forms of architecture. Cities are made up of architectural structures – we call this the BUILT ENVIRONMENT or the URBAN LANDSCAPE. Think of all the buildings you interact with throughout the day! Architecture shapes our daily lives, and good architecture makes life more enjoyable.

What are your favorite buildings and what do you like about them? How do they make you feel?



ACTIVISM is people working together to enact social change. Activists work for a cause they believe in. Often they advocate for the MARGINALIZED – excluded groups and minorities, like people of color and the homeless. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked with many of his fellow Americans to fight for the rights of African Americans during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Here in the Bronx, community activist Dr. Antonetty Evelina López worked with her neighbors to support the needs of local parents and improve the quality of Bronx public school education, advocating for free school lunches and bilingual day care centers.

Who are some other activists you have heard of? What social movements are going on today?

One last note before we start: Matta-Clark believed in the power of community. He understood that no matter who builds the city, it's the community who will inhabit it. It should ultimately be the community who shapes the built environment. After all, what is a city but the people living within? We should be empowered to create and re-create our cities to best serve our collective needs. While looking at Matta-Clark's art, we'll explore how people live and flourish together in the city & how inclusive communities welcome and value everyone.



COMMUNITY is a group of people living in the same place and/or a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of shared attitudes, interests, and goals.

What communities do you feel a part of?

Now we're ready to begin the scavenger hunt! Turn the page for your first clue.

FIND THE PHOTOS "UNTITLED (ANARCHITECTURE)"



Read this word out loud: ANARCHITECTURE

It's not a typo! It's a portmanteau: a word made by squishing two other words together. "Anarchitecture" combines "anarchy" and "architecture."

Anarchy is a situation of confusion, disorder and wild behavior due to a lack of rules or laws. For example, when the teacher is not in the classroom, students can climb on desks, scream and shout, and color on the walls because there is no one to make sure students follow the rules.

Act out the words "anarchy" and "architecture." Then act out "anarchitecture." Based on the meanings of "anarchy" and "architecture," what do you think "anarchitecture" means?



A MADE-UP WORD

The *Untitled (Anarchitecture)* photographs along the ramp in the main lobby show some examples of broken or bad architecture. However, bad architecture can be changed into something useful.

Anarchitecture comes down to building without following the rules and using buildings and space, including the broken parts, to create a better place for people to live together. It applies the power of community to architecture: buildings can actually build and empower community. We can transform our world and build a place where everyone can live fully in their surroundings.

- **If you could change one thing about your neighborhood, what would it be?**
- **What can you do to make your neighborhood more welcoming to people who have been left out?**

FIND THIS ARTWORK



- If you saw this in the street, would you think it's art?
- Now look at the label and check the material. The label tells us that this is a piece of a building, made of wood and linoleum. Seeing it here in the museum, do you think it's art? Why or why not?
- Look at the photographs on the dark gray walls. What is wrong with the buildings in the photos?

FIND THE VIDEO "FIRE CHILD"



- Watch the video for a few minutes. This film shows three of Matta-Clark's PARTICIPATORY works: *Jacks*, *Garbage Wall*, and *Pig Roast*.
- Now find the installation on the North Wing 2nd floor terrace. What artwork featured in *Fire Child* does it remind you of?
- This is the ONLY artwork in the entire museum that you CAN TOUCH! Walk around the entire installation and feel its surface.



TAGGING TRAINS

At its core, graffiti is writing on property like walls and billboards. In fact it was originally called WRITING, not graffiti. New York City graffiti started in the late 1960s and took root particularly in the Bronx. Teenagers used wide-tip markers and cans of spray-paint to write their names – TAGGING – on walls in PUBLIC SPACES. They soon expanded to tagging subway cars, using trains as their canvases. The 2 and 5 trains were particularly popular for graffiti writers because they ran above ground in the Bronx, displaying vibrant graffiti above the landscape of New York City. As subway trains moved along their daily routes, they carried the writers' works throughout the boroughs, sharing it with tons of people. The dull gray city became covered in a lively frenzy of color!

Find this artwork and its black-and-white mate. They show the tag “E-Z 129.” How many photos can you find the “E-Z 129” tag in?



FIND THIS SUBWAY GRAFFITI ARTWORK



- Say five descriptive words that leap to mind when first seeing this graffiti.
- Then spend some time actively looking at the artwork. What colors do you see? What symbols can you spot? Can you read the graffiti writing?

FIND THE VIDEO IN THE MAIN LOBBY



- Make up a story about the scene in the video. Who are the characters? What are they doing? Where are they? Why are they there? What are they saying to each other?
- How are the characters engaging all five senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell?

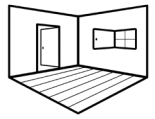
FIND THIS ARTWORK



- Observe the artwork and describe what you see. Actively look at the visual elements:



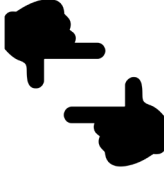
- Now look at the colorful prints on the wall behind you: what's the relationship between the artworks on these two walls? Match up the black-and-white artworks to the colored artworks.



INSIDE OUTSIDE

Believe it or not, these are close-up photographs Matta-Clark took of walls. The photos are so close up that the tiny details of the walls' surface fill the frame so you can't even tell it's a wall – they're ABSTRACT.

To create the *Walls paper* artwork, Matta-Clark first took the *Walls* photos in black-and-white, and then printed them with a thin layer of colored ink to create the beautiful prints we see here. He then hung them on an entire wall, from floor to ceiling, like wallpaper. It's a joke: he wallpapered a wall with pictures of walls!

- **Try out Matta-Clark's artistic approach. Make a "camera frame" with your hands like this:** 
- **Then look through your finger frame at the gallery walls and floors, as if you are taking a close-up photograph. What details do you see?**

FIND THE SOUTH WING ATRIUM

What does all this talk about buildings and community have to do with the Bronx Museum? Since its creation, this museum has been a place of community. We strive to be an example of anarchitecture: a living building that in turn builds and empowers community. It's here for everyone, from art enthusiasts to art novices. It doesn't matter what you know about art or if you don't know anything about art. We invite you to come to the Museum to think creatively, share your ideas, and hang out with others. This museum is here for you.



MY SPACE

Before you leave:

- Take one of the postcards from the table in the South Wing atrium. On the front, create a graffiti tag. On the back, complete the sentence: My favorite building in the Bronx is...
- When you're done, leave your tagged postcard in the basket for us to display. Stop by the museum again to check out your work!

That completes our scavenger hunt! We hope you enjoyed your time here and look forward to your next visit.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SELECTED ARTWORKS

Untitled (Anarchitecture), 1974
Twenty gelatin silver prints
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London
Photo: Stefan Hagen

Bronx Floors, 1972-73
Building fragment: wood and linoleum
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Gift of Horace H. Solomon, 1991
370.1991

Fire Child, 1971
16mm film
9:47 min., silent
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London. Courtesy of Electronic Arts InterMix.

Garbage Wall, 1970
Recreation from
Garbage Wall and Rosebush, St. Mark's Church, New York, 1970
Brooklyn Bridge Event, Brooklyn Bridge, New York, 1971 and 112 Greene Street, New York, NY
Refuse mixed with tar & plaster, layered and molded into a plastic-lined wooden form

Graffiti Photoglyph, 1973
Gelatin silver print with hand coloring
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London

Graffiti E- Z 129, 1973
Two gelatin silver prints with hand coloring
Collection of Gail and Tony Ganz, Los Angeles

Food, 1974
16 mm film,
60 min., black and white, sound
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London. Courtesy of Electronic Arts InterMix.

Selection of 12 individual *Walls*, 1972
Gelatin silver print
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London

Walls paper, 1972
Offset color prints (exhibition copy)
72 offset lithographs on newsprint paper
Tate
Presented by the American Fund for the Tate Gallery, 2015

Walls, 1972
Chromogenic print
The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London

IMAGE CREDITS

Page 13: Gordon Matta-Clark creating *Garbage Wall* at the Brooklyn Bridge, 1971. Courtesy The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London.

Page 14: Photograph by Keith Watson, https://www.flickr.com/photos/keith_watson/3024153283/sizes//.

Page 20: Interior of Food restaurant, 1972. Photograph by Cosmos Andrew Sarchiapone. Courtesy The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London.

Page 27: Food opening poster. Courtesy The Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York/London.

Page 29: www.ontherun.de.

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Council on the Arts



ART WORKS.



Blue Rider Group at Morgan Stanley



David Zwirner



BRONX MUSEUM
The Bronx Museum of the Arts



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a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund

VISITING BASICS

THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS
1040 GRAND CONCOURSE, BRONX, NEW YORK 10456
T: 718.681.6000 | W: BRONXMUSEUM.ORG

ADMISSION

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is FREE ADMISSION to all ages.
Children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older.

HOURS

Wednesday	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Monday	closed
Thursday	11:00 am – 6:00 pm	Tuesday	closed
Friday	11:00 am – 8:00 pm		
Saturday	11:00 am – 6:00 pm		
Sunday	11:00 am – 6:00 pm		

SUBWAY

Take the D or B to the 167th St./Grand Concourse station. Exit at rear of station; walk south along Grand Concourse two blocks.

Or take the 4 to the 161st St./Yankee Stadium station. Walk east three blocks to the Grand Concourse, and then walk north four blocks along Grand Concourse to 165th Street.

BUS

Take the Bx1, Bx2, or BxM4 Express to 165th St./Grand Concourse.

ACCESSIBILITY

All public areas of the Museum, including galleries and restrooms, are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs are available free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis and are located at the front desk.

BAG POLICY

Bag check is unavailable at the Museum. We recommend that you leave large bags/backpacks at home. In the galleries all bags, including backpacks, must be carried at waist-level.

PHOTOGRAPHY

No flash photography please.

XM CAFÉ

Located on the main floor of the Museum, the XM Cafe is a pleasant place to have a quick lunch or a relaxing cappuccino before attending a public program or after visiting the Museum galleries. Our assortment of light-fare options includes pastries, sandwiches, salads, cookies, and coffees.