

Press Release

Brooklyn Museum to Open New Toby Devan Lewis Education Center on January 27

Three studios will offer expanded access to art-making and learning for all ages, and a dedicated gallery will host rotating family-friendly installations, kicking off with *Artland: An Installation by Do Ho Suh and Children*



Toby Devan Lewis Education Center. Photo by: Alexander Severin.

On January 27, 2024, the Brooklyn Museum will welcome visitors to its newly renovated education center, named in honor of philanthropist, collector, and curator Toby Devan Lewis and her tremendous contributions to the art world. The revamped 9,500-square-foot space will allow the Museum to better serve the more than 50,000 visitors who participate in our education programs each year, including early childhood learners, school groups, teen audiences, college graduates, older visitors, and visitors with disabilities. The reopening will also celebrate expanded and reimagined educational programming, with new offerings on weekends for families, and a permanent gallery for installations by renowned artists, as well as students and the community.

The education center will serve and support engagement among visitors across age groups, as research shows that intergenerational relationships are foundational for community building and connectivity. Three studios, complete with state-of-the-art audiovisual systems and LED lighting, have been specially conceived to facilitate

Brooklyn Museum

creative expression and collaboration. They will host regular programs and classes that highlight the Museum's ongoing commitment to arts education and community engagement.

Adding to its all-ages appeal, the center also features a 1,300-square-foot gallery for rotating exhibitions, including artist installations with family-friendly interactive elements. The inaugural installation, *Artland: An Installation by Do Ho Suh and Children*, opens on January 27 in the newly named Norman M. Feinberg Gallery, introducing Brooklyn audiences to an imaginative world filled with enchanting characters and landscapes. Finally, the center's footprint allots 4,600 square feet of offices to the Museum's education staff, including a dedicated area for teen staff and museum guides.

"The Brooklyn Museum has a long tradition of providing arts education for diverse audiences across the borough and beyond," says Adjoa Jones de Almeida, Deputy Director for Learning and Social Impact. "This renovation has been many years in the making. We're so excited to offer Brooklynites and visitors from all walks of life beautiful spaces where they can connect and nurture their creative potential—where everyone is an artist."

Arts education is the cornerstone of the Brooklyn Museum's longstanding mission to bring people together through art and experiences that inspire celebration, compassion, courage, and the will to act. The institution has been committed to providing learning opportunities since its founding 200 years ago, becoming one of the first American museums to create a discrete Education department in 1913.

Together with numerous community partners, the Museum has developed innovative art-based programs for visitors of all ages. Iconic examples include the Studio Art Program—formerly known as the Gallery/Studio Program, with roots dating back to the Brooklyn Museum Art School founded in 1941—which offers semester-long studio art classes for ages 6 to 96. With the renovation comes a new name for this program, emphasizing our dedication to studio-based art-making. Brand-new drop-in programming on Saturdays and Sundays will give families the chance to explore our collections through close looking and interactive activities. Additional educational offerings include guided gallery visits for school groups, intergenerational art-making workshops, camps, programs for visitors with disabilities, and early childhood classes. The Museum's Education department also coordinates school partnerships, teen internships, the Teacher Leadership Program, and other professional development courses, among other initiatives.

Stephen Yablon Architecture served as the Design Architect for this project. Samuel Anderson Architects was the Architect of Record/Construction Administration. The facade and curtain wall designs were by AYON Studio. Gilbane Building Company served as the Construction Manager.

Reopening weekend and Artland



Artland: An Installation by Do Ho Suh and Children, 2022. © Do Ho Suh. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, and London. (Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates, London)

During the education center’s reopening weekend, a series of free events will invite Museum Members, school partners, families, and general audiences to preview the transformed space and learn about its programs. A daylong celebration on Saturday, January 27, begins with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, after which visitors will be invited into the three new studios to enjoy art-making, pop-up talks, and other activities. On Sunday, January 28, the Museum will host an edition of the popular Sunday Art series in honor of Lunar New Year. Held 2–4 pm, this drop-in program will include art-making with teaching artists as well as a lion dance performance by the Chinese Freemasons Athletic Club.

Visitors will also be able to immerse themselves in Artland, a fantastical ecosystem dreamed up by artist Do Ho Suh (born Seoul, South Korea, 1962) and his two young daughters. Artland comprises an ever-growing and evolving series of islands inhabited by characters and landscapes sculpted from colorful clay. First created at Suh’s London home and studio in 2016, the installation was previously on view at the Buk-Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) in Seoul, South Korea. There, children (and adults) were invited to contribute their own imaginings to the vibrant artwork.

Artland has become an expanding platform that celebrates the unique creativity of a child’s mind. Brooklyn Museum visitors can continue adding to its diverse species of plants and creatures and imagine the possibilities of an alternate world. The installation is on view January 27–May 5, 2024.

Download press images of the Toby Devan Lewis Education Center and *Artland: An Installation by Do Ho Suh and Children*.

Note to Editors:

This installation is organized by Adjoa Jones de Almeida, Deputy Director for Learning and Social Impact; Sharon Matt Atkins, Deputy Director for Art; and Shamilia McBean Toccuray, Director of Education, with assistance from Jennie Tang, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of Art and Director of Curatorial Affairs.

Special thanks to the Buk-Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), especially Jaeim Joung, Curator; Dahyun Ko, Coordinator; Kiyoung Peik, Managing Director; Jooyoung Seo, Head of Curatorial Team; and Hanna L. Yoo, Curator.

Generous support is provided by Jane Hait and Justin Beal.

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