These walks are Elastic & fantastic!

BY DOYLE MURPHY
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TAKING a walk on the wild side.

The 12-day Elastic City Walks Festival through Brooklyn and Manhattan ends the typical guided historical tour with roaming artists who take strangers in a new way to look at the city.

"The walk is the performance," said founder Todd Shalom, 37. "The artists are leading people in a performance that goes through a certain neighborhood."

Each one is different and depends on the group who shows up, said Shalom, an instructor in the Pratt Institute's new MFA writing program.

Some artists have asked people to create human monuments to mimic and re-imagine the statues they pass.

Shalom has sent participants to collect random objects lying around and then use them to turn sidewalk squares into temporary artworks.

The Prospect-Lefferts Gardens resident has been leading the unique tours for 11 years.

He began with "sound walks," guiding strangers through the nooks of city neighborhoods, and eventually created one that led groups through Chelsea gay bars, adult video stores and a leather menagerie.

Elastic City, which is now in its fifth year, has grown to include more than 20 poets, artists and curators. The free walks take place from Sept. 26 to Oct. 7.

The Brooklyn museum is sponsoring two as part of the festival's "Crossing Brooklyn" exhibit.

"We have all the tools right here to make the everyday extraordinary," Shalom said.

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DUMBO's sprawling art fair kicks off Friday.

The three-day DUMBO Arts Festival features more than 400 artists, 50 galleries and street installations in the trendy nabe.

It promises hydroponic tomato plant sculptures, a traveling dance party blasting from a disco truck and the Mother's Dream Quilt made from fabric donated by victims and survivors of gun violence.

Visitors can see artists working in their studios or step outside for live performances by dancers, poets and muralists.

The festival, now in its 18th year, is the largest free arts event in New York City. It drew more than 200,000 people in 2013.

Visit dumboartsfestival.com for more information.

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