

TELEVISION. BOTANY VS. THE ATOM BOMB

WATCH ACTRESS OLIVIA WILLIAMS IN 'MANHATTAN.' PAGE 15



metro®

NEW YORK CITY'S #1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, July 23, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



PAIN T, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Arts. At Paint Nite, young New Yorkers come together to awaken their muse with a mixture of alcohol and a love of painting. The budding artists meet up at local bars in the city to mingle, share some laughs and come up with their own booze-soaked Picassos PAGE 02

Heather Twible and Carolyn Leonard participate in Paint Nite in the Lower East Side on Monday night. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Flag stunt on bridge no laughing matter

PAGE 02

Woody Allen makes 'Magic' to ease ennui

PAGES 18-19

NYMF: See it before it's tapped for Broadway

PAGE 20

Swimming in cash? Land a pad with a pool

PAGES 24-25

Two ways to wrangle tangled technology

PAGE 25

What are the top stories at Jets camp?

PAGE 29

1 NEWS

Today's tweet

"Constantly amazed at how many US sitcoms feature white unemployed or lowly paid people living in affordable housing in New York City."

@MKPS001



Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 Sheryl Crow: Better to have 3 broken engagements than 3 divorces'

2 Video: Pro-Russia WWE wrestling manager uses Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in storyline'

3 Justin Bieber's bucket hat: What's up with that?'

Paint Nite: Drink booze and paint a masterpiece

Manhattan. A popular painting class mixes alcohol and paints at a bar.

At the beginning of a painting class on the Lower East Side earlier this week, our instructor issued a warning:

"As the night goes on, it's a lot easier to mix up your water cup and your drink cup," cautioned Maura Jacobs, 24, "or to dip your dirty paintbrush into your actual drink. [I] don't want to scare anyone, but it happens a lot."

During Paint Nite events, where we're supposed to "drink creatively," local artists like Jacobs help tipsy pupils fill a blank canvas to mixed results. That night, Jacobs would walk us through "The Cove," a painting she designed for the class featuring a bright yellow moon and dark sea.

Most of us hadn't held a paintbrush since elementary school. But that was OK — there were happy hour specials.

"If at any point you feel a little bit nervous or a little sensitive about what you're doing or what your painting looks like, take a drink," Jacobs instructed. "I'm not kidding — it's kind of our only rule."

While drinking is not required, Paint Nite encourages participants to have fun. The classes are designed for students to enjoy themselves with the hope they might continue their art education, explained co-founder Sean McGrail.

"There's not enough



The painting class gives people a chance to do something creative while drinking. / PHOTOS BESS ADLER, METRO



The fearless reporter Anna Sanders begins work on her painting.



A list of Paint Nite events can be found at www.paintnite.com

opportunities for people to paint after they reach a certain age," McGrail said. And



Visit Metro.us to see more photos from the Paint Nite event.

the drinking, he said, is an incentive.

Jacobs, who has experience teaching art to children, said Paint Nite classes are comparable because of the laid-back atmosphere and, of course, the alcohol.

"I think the drinking makes them a lot more comfortable," she said of her stupefied students.

It worked. After four cocktails, I felt like Picasso. While I streaked some purple onto the canvas

and sipped my third drink — a jalapeno margarita — Jacobs came over and asked how things were going.

"I'm not going to lie," I said, pointing at my masterpiece, "this looks damn good."

One of my classmates, Rebecca Nazario, agreed that drinking increased her confidence.

"It makes you feel a little less afraid of making mistakes," said Nazario, 28. Paint Nite began in Bos-

Analysis My Critique

Paint Nite is all about encouraging creativity, not mastering the craft. When asked about my painting, Jacobs gave a supportive critique.

While working on the sky in my piece, I added purple without being told to do so.

"That was wonderful," Jacobs said. "Something that not a lot of people do."

But other parts of the sky could have used some work.

"It's strongest on the outside and toward the bottom," Jacobs said. "It's weakest in middle."

I spent a lot of time on the sea — at least a margarita's worth — and it apparently paid off.

"Your water and your mountains are definitely the best part," Jacobs said. "Your brush strokes bled together really nicely. All the colors are layered on top of each other, everything looks cohesive."

ton and came to the city in fall 2012. Right now, about 25 artists hold \$65 classes in about 75 bars in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.

Most of my class enjoyed themselves. And despite the drinks, the paintings didn't look half bad.

"This was fun," student Camilla Dornquist said. "I normally hate art."



ANNA SANDERS @AnnaESanders anna.sanders@metro.us

New York. Mysterious white flags fly over Brooklyn Bridge

Two white flags appeared over the towers of the Brooklyn Bridge on Tuesday morning in place of the American flags that are a fixture of the bridge.

The American flags, measuring 20 feet by 11 feet, that had been bleached white flew over the Brooklyn Bridge, leaving police officials



A white flag flying over the Brooklyn Bridge. COUNCILMAN MARK WEPRIN, TWITTER

and the public perplexed. By 1 p.m., the flags were removed.

According to the NYPD, at 3:30 a.m. the light that illuminates the flag over the Brooklyn side of the bridge went out. Twelve minutes later, the light over the Manhattan tower also went out and later the white flags, the universal

symbol of surrender, were discovered.

"We don't take these things lightly," said John Miller, deputy commissioner, intelligence and counterterrorism for the city. "We don't look at it as a joke, as art or a form of speech." However he dismissed any connections to terrorism.

If caught, the suspects face charges of criminal trespass, malicious mischief and reckless endangerment.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams was incensed. "If flying a white flag atop the Brooklyn Bridge is someone's idea of a joke, I'm not laughing," he said. SAMAR KHURSHID