

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

99 Gansevoort Street
New York, NY 10014

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE

LIVE MUSIC, A CIRCUS CELEBRATION, AND MUCH MORE AT THE WHITNEY DURING FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS AND FREE SECOND SUNDAY



The Whitney's November lineup for free programs includes a live music performance by Saha Gnawa, artmaking programs for teens, and all-ages activities to celebrate the recently opened Hire Wire: Calder's Circus at 100.

New York, NY, October 30, 2025 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, live music, artmaking activities, and much more** throughout November during [Free Friday Nights](#) and [Free Second Sunday](#). The Whitney is thrilled to host **live performances by Saha Gnawa** on Friday, November 7. **Presented by Public Records as part of Durations 2025**, Saha Gnawa will reimagine modern Gnawa music for this performance during Free Friday Night at the Whitney. Blending North African futurism with New York City's jazz and contemporary music scenes, the group explores trance-like states through its intuitive interplay, allowing ancestral rhythms and melodies to drift into unknown territories.

Gather with family and friends this November to enjoy free programs and experience the exhibitions on view, including the recently opened [High Wire: Calder's Circus at 100](#), which celebrates the centennial of one of Alexander Calder's most iconic works and one of the most

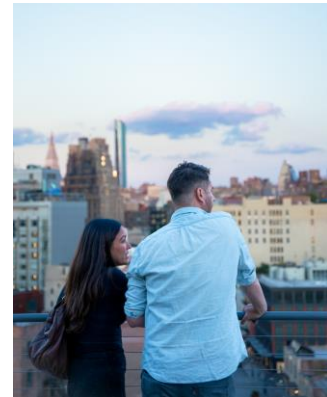
beloved in the Whitney's collection, and [Sixties Surreal](#). There's something for everyone at the Whitney all month long!

Friday, November 7

To kick off November's Free Friday Nights, the Whitney is hosting [live music performances by Saha Gnawa](#), as part of [Durations 2025](#), a multi-genre festival presented by **Public Records**. At **6:30 pm** and **8:30 pm** in the **third-floor theater**, visitors are invited to enjoy performances from the Brooklyn-based collective that brings North African futurism to the U.S., uniting the founders of Innov Gnawa and New York City's jazz and contemporary scenes to reimagine modern Gnawa music.

In addition to music performances, **admission to the Museum is free for all visitors from 5–10 pm**. Also coinciding with this Free Friday Night is [Art + You: Gallery Conversations for Younger Adults](#) in the **fifth-floor galleries** at **6 pm**. Guided by a Whitney Museum Educator, this session invites younger adult visitors to reflect on select works from *Sixties Surreal* through close looking and dialogue. This exhibition showcases artists who sought new strategies for connecting art to their lived reality, challenging the status quo of the United States in the 1960s.

Earlier in the evening from **4–6 pm**, teens are welcome to join [Open Studio for Teens](#), a **free artmaking program** the Museum offers on select Fridays. Drawing inspiration from themes and artists featured in the Whitney's and exhibitions, teens can engage with innovative techniques in collaboration with contemporary artists and educators.



Sunday, November 9

On **Sunday, November 9**, the Whitney is offering **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages. This is the **first Free Second Sunday** that *Hire Wire: Calder's Circus at 100* is on view. The exhibition celebrates the centennial of one of Alexander Calder's most iconic works and one of the most beloved in the Whitney's collection, [Calder's Circus](#) (1926–31). *High Wire* is the Whitney's first exhibition dedicated to *Calder's Circus* since moving to 99 Gansevoort and commemorates the artist's innovation and the enduring impact this work has had on twentieth-century art. From **11 am–4pm** in the **third-floor theater**, artists of all ages are welcome to enjoy the [Circus Celebration](#). The day will be filled with artmaking programs, lively performances, fun stories, and the full schedule can be found at whitney.org/visit/second-sundays.

Friday, November 14

On **Friday, November 14**, the Museum is offering its second [Open Studio for Teens](#) of the month from **4–6 pm**. Participating teens will draw inspiration from current exhibitions and the Museum's collection and explore new methods through hands-on artmaking projects. Later on, from **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, city views, special programming, music**, and more during the Whitney's Free Friday Nights.



Friday, November 21 and Friday, November 28

Offering **free admission from 5–10 pm**, the Whitney's Free Friday Nights features **art, drinks, special programming, music**, and more. Though admission is free, tickets are required, and capacity is limited. Advanced tickets are recommended. The latest information about Free Friday Nights programming is always available on whitney.org.

Ongoing Exhibition Tours

A variety of free exhibition tours led by Whitney educators, ranging from family-focused to 15-minute tours, are offered during Free Friday Nights and Free Second Sundays. For further details on upcoming tours, please visit whitney.org/events.

While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm and all day on Sunday, November 9, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and tickets can be reserved at whitney.org/admission.**

New Free Admission Offerings at the Whitney

The Whitney Museum offers free admission to all visitors 25 years of age and younger.

The new Free 25 and Under program builds on the Museum's popular Free Friday Nights and Free Second Sundays initiatives. With the addition of free admission for visitors 25 and under, the Whitney—already a leader in the field, providing free admission for visitors 18 and under for over a decade—offers one of the broadest and most comprehensive free admissions programs among museums in New York and the United States, affirming the Whitney's commitment to broadening access to American contemporary art and culture, and to reaching new audiences. Free 25 and Under is made possible with the generous support of two three-year gifts from Whitney Museum Board members, longtime supporter Susan Hess, and artist Julie Mehretu.

Free Second Sundays at the Whitney help connect more people to the Museum and its mission of celebrating contemporary American art and artists. Second Sundays is made possible by a

generous three-year grant from the [Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All Program](#), which supports increased access to museums across the country and fosters engagement with local communities by focusing on common barriers to access. The program and another Whitney initiative, [Free Friday Nights](#), both aim to reduce barriers to access, removing admission fees and offering programs that are entry points for anyone interested in visiting.

Photo and video assets from previous Free Friday Nights and Second Sundays at the Whitney can be found at whitney.org/press/free-days-and-nights.

PRESS CONTACT

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site at whitney.org/press or contact:

Meghan Ferrucci, Senior Publicist
(212) 671-8346
Meghan_Ferrucci@whitney.org

Whitney Press Office
whitney.org/press
(212) 570-3633
pressoffice@whitney.org

PROGRAM SUPPORT

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Major support for Free Second Sundays is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Significant support is provided by Julie and Doug Ostrover.



ACCESS
FOR ALL

ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture.

in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning “island of many hills.” The Museum’s current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Sapponckanikan (“tobacco field”). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region’s original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum’s Land Acknowledgment, [visit the Museum’s website](#).

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Visitors twenty-five years and under and Whitney members: FREE. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.

Image credit:

Lead image: 2025.01.10 FFN x Public Records - John Roseboro - Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Second Sunday, September 14, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Installation view of *Sixties Surreal* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 24, 2025–January 19, 2026). From left to right: Ed Ruscha, *Give Him Anything and He'll Sign It*, 1965; Karl Wirsum, *Gargoyle Gargle Oil*, c. 1969. Photograph by Matthew Carasella; Free Friday Night, September 26, 2025. *Sixties Surreal B-Side*. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Art + You: Gallery Conversations for Younger Adults, Amy Sherald. July 11, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Installation view of *Sixties Surreal* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 24, 2025–January 19, 2026). Raymond Saunders, *Untitled*, 1968. Photograph by Trevor Felder

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