

DAILY NEWS

Music & Arts

London-based Frieze Art Fair brings 182 galleries from 30 countries to Randalls Island

It's all housed under a gigantic tent designed by Brooklyn architects SO-IL

BY [CARRIE COUROGEN](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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A tented structure designed by SO-IL houses the Frieze Art Fair on Randalls Island.

NEW YORKERS who have never been to Randalls Island now have a reason to venture up the East River.

The London-based Frieze Art Fair comes to New York for the first time on Friday May 4 for a four-day extravaganza.

More than 180 galleries and exhibits from across the globe will be housed beneath a massive tent.

Frieze, a British mag dedicated to contemporary art and culture, held its first fest across the Atlantic in 2003, drawing 28,000 visitors. It has since grown to 60,000 spectators in London each year.

New York galleries have been working to bring the festival to the city for years, but finding the right space was among the difficulties.

"Obviously, if you're going to do a fair in New York, the biggest problem is 'Where do you do it?'" said [Amanda Sharp](#), co-director of the festival with [Matthew Slotover](#).

Randalls Island was the perfect canvas to showcase the 182 emerging and established galleries from 30 countries, including the Chelsea-based [David Zwirner](#) and [Sean Kelley](#) galleries.

The 250,000-square foot tented venue, designed by Brooklyn architects SO-IL, is the largest temporary structure in North America, organizers say.

There's even room for cafes (including a Standard Biergarten pop-up), local food trucks like Roberta's Pizza, and a sculpture garden featuring artists like [Jamie Plensa](#), who built a giant head in Madison Square Park last summer.

Sharp said the East River island's scenic, yet overlooked location, was another draw.



FREDRIK NILSEN

Sculpture on display at the upcoming Frieze Art Fair: "White Snow Dwarf, Sleepy #1 (Midget), 2012" by Paul McCarthy.

"I've always thought of our fair as being, to some degree, a discovery fair," said Sharp.

Randalls Island is "authentically New York but, perhaps, completely unfamiliar to [New Yorkers]."

If the trek deterred visitors before, Frieze makes accessing the island easier than ever.

The festival provides complimentary transit options like a 20-minute ferry departing every 15 minutes from 35th St. on the East River, or a 10-minute shuttle bus from the 4/5/6 subway lines at 125th Street and Lexington Ave.

For those traveling by car, the venue has parking space for 1,500 cars, and valet service.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Frieze Art Fair runs from May 4-7. Fri. & Sat., noon-7 p.m., Sun. & Mon., noon-6 p.m. Tickets are available online at Friezenewyork.com starting at \$40. Reduced tickets are available for \$25 for senior citizens, students with valid ID, and for entry after 1p.m. Children under 16 with an accompanying adult enter free.

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