

Your perfect weekend

Friday, Jan 23



Listen up, earthlings: Brenda Ray's **World Voices Project** is back at the Action Center to End World Hunger (6 River Terr at the Hudson River, worldvoicesproject.org; Tue, Thu–Sat 10am–6pm; Wed 10am–8pm, Sun 10am–5pm; suggested donation \$5–\$8; through March 1). The headphones play recordings of the Declaration of Human Rights in 60 different tongues—that makes one hell of a compassionate cacophony.



Tonight, up-and-comers face off at **Art Battles**, a live painting competition at (Le) Poisson Rouge (158 Bleecker St at Thompson St, artbattles.com; 11pm; \$10–\$15). "We'll be honoring the *alla prima* technique," says founder Sean Bono. "It was a test of the 17th-century Italian masters, who would actually paint in 30-second or three-minute-long [segments] to show the mastery of their craft."

Saturday, Jan 24



It's an antiquin' weekend: Look but don't touch (unless you're rich) at three major fairs, including the **American Antiques Show** at the Metropolitan Pavilion (125 W 18th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves, 212-977-7170; Thu 22–Sat 24 11am–8pm, Sun 25 noon–5pm; \$18–\$45), **Antiques at the Armory** (69th Regiment Armory, 68 Lexington Ave between 25th and 26th Sts, stellashows.com; Fri 23, Sat 24 10am–7pm, Sun 25 11am–5pm; \$15) and the **55th Annual Winter Antiques Show** (Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Ave between 66th and 67th Sts, 718-292-7392; Mon–Wed, Fri, Sat noon–8pm; Sun, Thu noon–6pm; \$20; Fri 23–Feb 1). Unsure where to start? Hit all three by hopping on the free shuttle that loops between the venues.

Later, jump to the opening of "**Queens International 4**" at the Queens Museum of Art (49th Ave at 111th St, Flushing, Queens; 718-592-9700; 6pm–midnight, free), a biennial showcase of works by Queensites and Queenie transplants. After your walk-through, embrace NYC's middle child with a screening of Queens-centric shorts, a performance by the Unstoppable Death Machines, BMXer John "Dizz" Hicks breaking in a ramp designed by artist Ryan Humphrey, and eats courtesy of three Vandy Award-winning food carts.

Sunday, Jan 25

Keep your shoes on while attending "**JAPAN BRAND: Unfolding**," a two-week design exhibition featuring contemporary Japanese furniture, cookware, eyeglasses, fashion and other imports (Felissimo Design House, 10 W 56th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves; 212-956-4438, felissimo.com; Daily 11am–6pm, free; through Feb 7). Some items will be available for purchase—and should go well with your horrifying Hello Kitty bedroom suite.



Which reminds us: Celebrate a century of animation at the Picture House's "**New York Independents: Legendary Films & Filmmakers**" (175 Wolfs Ln between Brookside and Sparks Aves, Pelham, NY; 914-738-3161, thepicturehouse.org; \$7–\$9 per session). From noon to 2pm, industry vets, including J.J. Sedelmaier (SNL's "TV Funhouse"), will discuss animation in advertising; from 4 to 6pm, watch shorts and listen as their local makers (Howard Beckerman, George Griffin, etc.) dig into the creative process. —James Y. Lee and Ashlea Halpern

Sweat box *Naginata*



Nagi-what? *Naginata* is a Japanese martial art whose weapon historically was a five- to seven-foot-long spear. Samurai warriors used it to cut off the legs of horses in battle. Since then, the implement has been replaced with a thin, bladeless pole and used to practice drills and fighting techniques. "Drills teach your body to move in a pattern, so that when you fight, you'll sense an opening in your

opponent," says John Prough, general secretary of the Japanese Swordsmanship Society, which offers regular naginata classes. **How many Big Macs will this burn off?** The one from lunch, at least. "It's good exercise, like lifting weights, with lots of repetitive movement," says Prough. "Competitions are fatiguing, but it's generally relaxing and easy on your body." **Will I get to fight like a samurai?** If you want. Students usually spar at the end of a lesson, though some just want to practice. **Where:** Classes are held Thursdays (6–7:15pm) and Saturdays (noon–2pm) at the Kazuko

Hirabayashi Dance Theater (330 Broome St between Bowery and Chrystie St) and Fridays (7:30–9:30pm) at the Community Education and Recreation Center (180 9th St at Manila St, Jersey City). Call 201-656-0117 or visit naginata.org for more info. **Can I just show up?** Yes. Classes cost \$25. All levels are welcome, weapons are provided, and teachers give individual instruction to beginners. "Anyone can do it," says Prough. If you're feeling extra warrior-like, drop by Jerz on a Friday, when you can also learn the 101 on *iaido* (sword art) and *kyudo* (Japanese archery). —Rebecca Dalzell