

2 SUNDAY ROUTINE

A fitness C.E.O. and mother of three hits the barre.

2 PET CITY

Missing dogs, neglected cats and other petsitting disasters.



4 WORKS IN PROGRESS

Its foundation solid, the New York Wheel starts rising.

8 ALBUM

Ramps, rails and BMX freestyle at a Bronx park.

NEW YORK CITY

Metropolitan

The New York Times

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016



DANIEL ETTER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Barcelona’s Lesson on ‘Superblocks’

The Spanish city is creating large areas where streets are essentially free of vehicles. Could this be a solution to traffic congestion in New York?

By WINNIE HU

BARCELONA — Imagine if streets were for strolling, intersections were for playing and cars were almost never allowed. While it sounds like a pedestrian’s daydream, and a driver’s nightmare, it is becoming a reality here in Spain’s second-largest city, a densely packed metropolis of 1.6 million on the Mediterranean. Ever since the 1992 Summer Olympics focused global attention here, this thriving center of tour-

ism, culture and business — often viewed as a hipper, more easygoing cousin to Madrid, the Spanish capital — has seen its popularity soar along with congestion on its streets and sidewalks. So in an initiative that has drawn international attention and represents a transformative remaking of its streetscape, Barcelona has decided that many of its car-clogged streets and intersections will hardly have cars at all. Instead, they will be

turned over to pedestrians. Beginning in September, city officials started creating a system of so-called superblocks across the city that will severely limit vehicles as a way to reduce traffic and air pollution, use public space more efficiently and essentially make neighborhoods more pleasant. “We like to call it ‘winning back the streets for the people,’” said Janet Sanz Cid, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Streets in the El Born neighborhood of Barcelona, above, that used to be open to vehicles now mostly serve pedestrians. Left, an experiment in August promoted recreational use of a 60-block area of Lower Manhattan.

GEORGE ETHEREDGE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dressed For Arrest?

MEASURED IN TERMS of cultural attention, it can seem like a very enlightened time to be living with an unconventional gender identity. The rights of transgender people have been a concern of presidential politics; “Transparent,” the comedy about a middle-aged male political scientist in the process of becoming female, is popular and in its third season; gender-neutral bathrooms are on the rise, and opposition to them puts challengers in the position of seeming benighted and cranky, as though they hankered for a world still dominated by three television networks. And yet, at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 3, as she was walking toward a bus stop in the CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

GINIA BELLAFANTE
BIG CITY

From Books to Apps to Virtual Reality

A media publisher has created an interactive festival that challenges classic storytelling.

By JULIE SATOW

A cavernous, six-story space on Fifth Avenue and 109th Street will soon be temporarily transformed into a phantasmagoria of virtual reality, augmented reality, olfactory experiments, immersive theater and numerous mind-bending tricks. At the Future of StoryTelling Festival, or FoST Fest, participants who pay \$75 for various interactive experiences will have three hours to join a flock of birds following a mother bird; tap into their five senses to experience gender fluidity; or watch “Riot,” a film that uses facial recognition to take users on a journey through a violent protest. “We are creating a unique story world,” said Charles Melcher, the festival’s founder.



CAITLIN OCHS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Charles Melcher, who founded the Future of StoryTelling Festival.

“Our tag line is ‘All the world’s a stage, come be a player,’ and this is the ultimate expression of that sentiment.” FoST Fest, which will take place for the first time from Oct. 7 to 9 at the Africa Center, 1280 Fifth Avenue, grew out of the Future of StoryTelling Summit, an invitation-only gathering that is now in its fifth year and is being held on the two days preceding the festival. FoST Summit, a TED-type conference for a hipper, new-media crowd, whisks about 500 “thought leaders” from industries including technology, advertising, music and media on a private ferry to Staten Island. There, at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, a former retreat for sailors, participants spend the two days wandering the grounds, networking and attending seminars and workshops. Most of those who go to the event are invited, pay-CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NEW YORK PANORAMA

Pear Season

The artist Audrey Shachnow tending to her sculpture “Golden Pears, 2015” as she recently reinstalled them in Fort Tryon Park. (They were briefly removed for the park’s Medieval Festival.) The pears will be on view until December, well past their normal harvest.



KARSTEN MORAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES