

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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Late Edition

Today, periods of clouds and sun, warmer, high 75. Tonight, showers and a thunderstorm, mainly late, low 56. Tomorrow, showers, breezy, cooler, high 62. Details, Page A20.

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## A Metal-Gate Makeover

On Lower East Side, an Unusual Festival, Fair and Artwork

By JAMES BARRON

Doreen Remen was explaining why this was not going to be just another New York street fair. And then Henry Sierra punched a couple of buttons, and down went the shutter-like metal gates on the plumbing-fixture store where he is the manager.

"Finished yesterday," he said, looking at the yellow, black and white abstract painting by the artist Jacqueline Humphries from the sidewalk outside the store, on the Bowery at Broome Street on the Lower east Side. "I really like it, but the first time I saw it, I said, 'Huh?'"

Ms. Remen is hoping there will be a lot of double-takes on the Bowery this week, but they will happen only at night and on Sunday, when

the stores are closed and the shutters are down. The wide metal gates provide an appealing canvas, and more than 15 have been painted for "After Hours: Murals on the Bowery." The installation coincides with the Festival of Ideas for the New City, which begins on Wednesday at the New Museum, a couple of blocks from Mr. Sierra's store.

The festival's two and a half days of workshops and speeches will be followed on Saturday and Sunday by something called StreetFest along the Bowery and in Sara D. Roosevelt Park on nearby Chrystie Street. In preparation the New Museum has drawn in dozens of downtown groups to reimagine what the city is, and

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## A Metal-Gate Makeover On the Lower East Side

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what it could be. StreetFest will not look like the weekend fairs on, say, Columbus Avenue. For one thing, the vendors' booths will not all be set up under conventional-looking tents. The New Museum — along with the city Transportation Department and the Storefront for Art and Architecture, another nonprofit group on the Lower East Side — held a competition to design a new kind of tent.

The winner: the "Worms," un-

Inside the Worms will be 10 booths, among them Hot Bread Kitchen, a nonprofit bakery that gives immigrant women a start in the food world; the Bowery Mission; and the Lower East Side Ecology Center. More than 50 more conventional-looking booths in rented tents — many with unconventional occupants like the Center for Urban Pedagogy, the Laundromat Project and Housing Is a Human Right — will be set up on the Bowery as far north as Houston Street and as far south as Spring Street.

