

CITY LIVING

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+FIND IT
"THE FLEA" is open 10
 a.m.-5 p.m. every weekend
 at these locations:

Saturday
 Fort Greene Flea
 176 Lafayette Ave.
 Subway: A/C to Lafayette Ave.,
 G to Clinton-Washington aves.

Sunday
 The Flea at One Hanson
 1 Hanson Pl.
 Subway: B/D/M/N/2/3/4/5 to
 Atlantic Ave.-Pacific St.

Rare finds at the Flea

BY LANA BORTOLOTT
 Special to amNewYork

When it began just two years ago, the Brooklyn Flea unexpectedly turned a high school track in Fort Greene into the city's hippest outdoor market. On seasonal Saturdays, you'll find friendly haggling over cool kitsch alongside the requisite dogs, strollers and a few intrepid European tourists.

A combination of auspicious things has made the market successful.

First, it's the location. Ringed by gracious archi-

'The market isn't just about buying things.'

Manager Eric Demby

ture — a Gothic Revival church and the Brooklyn Masonic Temple on one side and Victorian brownstones on the others — the Saturday market has a vibe as peaceable as its surroundings.

On Sundays, the Flea is held in the Williamsburgh Savings Bank Tower. Here, sellers occupy nooks in the



Shoppers check out the wares at Brooklyn Flea, a hip outdoor market in Fort Greene.

(ANDREW HINDERAKER)

mezzanine, displaying merchandise on marble kiosks.

The vendors sell handcrafted clothes and jewelry, as well as attic treasures such as Barbie cases and valises. Vendor profiles appear

online weekly, and there's even a scavenger hunt, so coming to the market feels like attending a reunion of old friends.

"I think there's an element where you feel like a

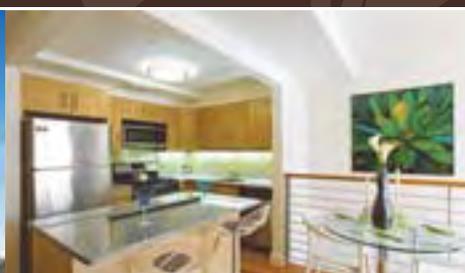
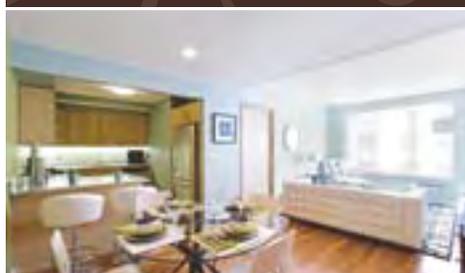
participant and you're buying things from people who are just like you, and [who] like the same things that you do," said market manager and co-founder Eric Demby. "The market isn't just about

people buying things."

Finally, there's the food. More than 25 purveyors will entice you with the likes of fresh lobster rolls, wood-fired pizza, gourmet baked goods and Latin specialties.

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Amy Moum works at Milk Truck at the Brooklyn Flea market.



Michael Merisola sells a well-curated collection of antiques at Coo Coo U. (PHOTOS: ANDREW HINDERAKER)



Ship's doors a portal to church

At the corner of Henry and Remsen streets in Brooklyn Heights lies Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral. Its two gorgeous front doors were salvaged from the dining room of the great ocean liner the SS Normandie — a luxury ship that swiftly ferried the well-to-do between France and New York during the 1930s.

The ship was in the process of being transformed into a war ship after Pearl Harbor when it burned and sank off a pier in Manhattan.

Thousands of artifacts were salvaged, including these doors, which the church bought at auction in the mid-1940s.

They're an impressive addition to an already historic gem. (AMNY)

TO EAT

Milk Truck

Specializing in gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches on artisan breads, Russ Cowen, one of the panini pressers, calls the fare "simple but good." His recommendation? The ham and aged Vermont cheddar or the Classic With a Twist — Gruyere with Champagne-pickled onions.

Pizza Moto

Improbable, but true: wood-fired gourmet pizza on the go. La Lunetta chef Dave Sclarow built the mobile brick oven that fires up thin-crust pizzas. The personal

pies fold up in the time-honored New York tradition, so you can eat your slice while you walk.

TO BUY

Blank Frames

It seems no flea market is complete without a frame dealer. The 2,000-plus piece selection from Susan Blank and Dennis Parrillo includes vintage frames for every nook or need — from baby pictures to diplomas. "Editing is the key," said Blank, who sources from estates and auctions. Bring in your image and they'll help you find a match.

Karen & Albert Antiquaires

Albert Williams likes to mix up his mid-century design aesthetic with curated fashion, and whimsical items such as a 1960s conga drum or a Japanese Kendo mask (\$150). He's also not afraid to show off his own personal style — on this particular day, a matching jacket and scarf and a wool beret, which he said helps him keep his energy flowing.

Coo Coo U

Michael Merisola makes a weekly haul from Buffalo with items such as French Deco mirrors, Statue of Liberty lamps or matching Vignelli fiberglass chairs, circa 1970s (\$1,200 for the pair). In the business for 30 years, he has a curator's eye. His best pick: a 1930s Zeppelin metal chair purchased for \$1, sold for \$2,500 and resold again for a rumored \$67,000.

Wrecords by Monkey

Brooklyn artists Patrick Chirico and Brian Farrell make jewelry from cast-off vinyl 33 records, with silk-screened graphics or classic patterns such as toile, tweed and lumberjack. The wrist cuff is their signature piece, but they've branched off into collections of earrings, pendants and charms inspired by other eras, created especially for flea-market chic looks.

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