The New York Times
January 8, 2010

Mad Family Day

By LAUREL GRAEBER

Cutting, shredding, slashing and burning are usually processes associated with destruction. But on Saturday the Museum of Arts and Design will show children 5 and older how all that clipping and ripping can also play a role in creation.

That's the message of Mad Family Day, which will center on the exhibition "Slash: Paper Under the Knife." While the museum offers children's workshops in its Studio Sunday series (this week the theme is pop-up cards), Saturday will be its first family day since it relocated to Columbus Circle. The idea is: Hey kids, meet the new kid.

"We've been at this location for a year, and though we're very interested in tourists and people from other communities, this is a chance to reach out to the neighborhood," said Cathleen Lewis, the museum's manager of school, youth and family programs.

The fun begins with short films of cut-paper animation. Rob Carter, whose work is in "Slash," will be represented by "Metropolis," for which he has cut out aerial views (real and fictional) of Charlotte, N.C. "You see them like pop-ups, and you hear the movement of the paper," Ms. Lewis said. His film will be followed by "The Magic Stamp" and "Folklore Restaurant," by Tomoko Oguchi, who will visit and explain how she creates her characters from handmade Japanese paper.

"She'll do a 10-to-15-minute discussion about her process, and she'll be here with her crew members, who are all children," Ms. Lewis said.

In addition, the museum will offer two screenings of the feature-length "Princes and Princesses," by Michel Ocelot, an animator well known for his work with intricate paper silhouettes. In this film the drawings of two young art students take on three-dimensional life in a series of six fairy tales.

Young visitors can also investigate "Slash" — in docent-led tours or independently — and make their own art, above. They will see demonstrations by Itamar Jobani, who makes laser-cut sculptures, and Sarah Abramson, who designs jewelry. "She'll show families how to use paper to make a pin," Ms. Lewis said.

The book artist Esther K. Smith will engage children in making paper crowns and headdresses, and museum educators will run stations at which young people can create pop-ups and cutouts; book designs and theater sets; and silhouettes for storytelling. Paper may be cheap, but it's rich with possibilities. (From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 Columbus Circle, 212-299-7780, madmuseum.org; $30 a family; $25 for members.)

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