

2015-J1371

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Museum upon the occasion of celebrating the opening of "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks" on April 2, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize those events which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Brooklyn Museum upon the occasion of celebrating the opening of "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks", to be held at a reception on Thursday, April 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Museum improves the cultural quality of life for the community by supporting individual artists, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, by displaying his body of works in an exhibition entitled, "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks", April 3-23, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat filled numerous notebooks with poetry fragments, wordplay, sketches, and personal observations ranging from street life and popular culture to themes of race, class, and world history; and

WHEREAS, The first major exhibition of the Jean-Michel Basquiat's notebooks, "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks" features 160 pages of these rarely seen documents, along with related works on paper and large-scale paintings; and

WHEREAS, A self-taught artist with encyclopedic and cross-cultural interests, Jean-Michel Basquiat was influenced by comics, advertising, children's sketches, pop art, hip-hop, politics, and everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Jean-Michel Basquiat's collection, "Basquiat: The Unknown

Notebooks", emphasizes the distinct interplay of text and images in his art, providing unprecedented insight into the importance of writing in his process; and

WHEREAS, The pages of the notebook contain early renderings of iconic imagery, tepees, crowns, skeleton-like figures, and grimacing faces, that also appear throughout his large-scale works, as well as an early drawing related to his series of works titled Famous Negro Athletes; and WHEREAS, The "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks" exhibition is organized by the Brooklyn Museum and is curated by Dieter Buchhart, and guest curator Tricia Laughlin Bloom, former Associate Curator of Exhibitions, Brooklyn Museum; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Museum upon the occasion of celebrating the opening of "Basquiat: The Unknown Notebooks" on April 2, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Brooklyn Museum.