



MUST-SEE EXHIBITS

Brain Games

BY AMY GORDON

Since 1824, the Franklin Institute has proven that science can be both educational and fun, and this summer the institution takes its mission to exhilarating new heights with the addition of the Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion. This ultra-tech space opens its doors to the public on June 14. It is the largest expansion in the history of the Institute, housing the museum's newest and largest permanent exhibition: "Your Brain," in addition to a rotating selection of science-related traveling exhibits.

RACK YOUR BRAINS

Your Brain is centerpiece of the 53,000-square-foot Karabots Pavilion and joins the Institute's roster of permanent exhibits including the popular giant heart exhibit. Through more than 70 interactive experiences, visitors can learn first-hand how the brain's processes affect people and society. The exhibit includes a two-story, movement-activated climbing structure that simulates a neural network with dynamic lighting and sound effects. A street scene packed with sensory-stimulating optical illusions showcases how the brain interprets the world around you and processes information. Supplemented with cutting-edge research from some of the best minds in the world, "Your Brain" helps youngsters understand first-hand how this complex and vital organ works.

Inventions that Changed the World examines the world's defining creations and discoveries, from penicillin to Velcro. Begin in the immersive, multi-screen environment where you'll be introduced to inventors of past and present. Through a series of mesmerizing photographs by Brian Skerry, **Ocean Soul by National Geographic** delves deep into the ocean to reveal the beautiful creatures and treasures that lurk underwater. Skerry aims to raise awareness and appreciation for animals such as the endangered leatherback sea turtles. **And in Circus! Science Under the Big Top**, visitors learn about the biology and physics behind circus staples like the human cannonball, the tightrope walker, the sword swallower and other sideshow spectacles. This interactive exhibit also invites attendees to walk a balance bar, juggle and see if they have what it takes to be a contortionist. Don't miss the blind circus-smell test and Clown Alley.



Seward Johnson's "The Awakening"

LARGER THAN LIFE

Fans of public art have long flocked to the breathtaking **Grounds for Sculpture**. "Seward Johnson: The Retrospective" is the largest exhibit the 42-acre attraction has hosted and showcases more than 150 sculptures by Grounds for Sculpture's founder, including his popular pieces "Forever Marilyn," "The Awakening" and "Unconditional Surrender." The featured works will be spread across four indoor galleries as well as the outdoor campus. Look out for special programming until the exhibit closes on Sept. 21, including hands-on art-making workshops, tours and screenings. 18 Fairgrounds Rd., Hamilton, NJ, 609.586.0616 —A.G.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

The Karabots Pavilion also features three exciting traveling exhibitions this season. 101

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