



Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic
A fancy dress picnic for dogs
With Johnny and The Wags

Sunday 14th October 2012 2-5pm

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Rachael House warmly invites you to make a costume, dress up your dog and bring it along to the canine art social event of the year- *Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic*, a fancy dress picnic for dogs. Pittsburgh. Birthplace of Andy Warhol, residence of George A. Romero, renowned for healthcare, technology and education and now hosting the first Pet-Tastic in the USA. Surely the country that invented dogs dressed up. Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic - it feels like coming home.

What excitement can you expect at Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic? You'll be able to admire beautiful dogs and their owners, dress a dog shaped cookie with icing, decorate a dog mask, or get your face painted to more closely resemble the dog you've always longed to be. Dogs will enjoy a delicious picnic, adoration from the crowds and a grand day out. Clothed canines and their consorts may also take part in a parade at 4.00pm, culminating in a presentation of certificates and souvenir. No visitor need go home empty handed.

We have more entertainment for your aural delight. John Carson, with his band The Wags, will be singing dog themed melodies, from Iggy's *I Wanna Be Your Dog* to Tom Waits' *Rain Dogs* and many more. This is John Carson's fourth Pet-Tastic performance and they just keep getting better.

The poster boy for Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic is no stranger to Pittsburgh art lovers. Max is Charlee Brodsky's dog and is already an established art star, featuring in Charlee's Artist of the Year exhibition at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Max will be strutting his stuff in a costume made by Rachael House.

We have a remarkable relationship with dogs don't we? For centuries they have served humans in myriad ways, even giving up their lives in the name of science, the space race, medical research and war. Only in Pittsburgh have these deceased dogs then been reanimated and rejoined the living. In 2005 doctors at Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh made this happen.

Max's outfit for Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic pays tribute to these undead canines, along with the rich zombie history of the region. Do come and say 'hi' to Max, don't be scared, he won't eat your brain.

So please come along, mingle, meet people, celebrate and form part of a vibrant community in the heart of Pittsburgh for three wonderful hours. You can make it happen.

All welcome

Rachael House is an artist based in London, UK. She has taken part in shows in the UK and internationally as well as creating participatory art events including *Pet-Tastic*. Pet-Tastics have taken place three times in Peckham (London), Lewisham (London), Bexhill on Sea (UK), Ha Gamle Prestegard (Norway) and Blackpool (UK). Recent exhibits include *Apathy's a Drag* at CGP London (2012), *Portable Pet-Tastic Travelling Petrospective* at Small World Art Bistro (2012) and *Peckham Peacocks*, a mobility scooter meet (2010). Rachael is co-director of Space Station Sixty-Five gallery.

Johnny and the Wags are: John Carson - vocals, Jeff Baron - guitar, Michael Nee - drums, Kathryn Heidemann - bass guitar and vocals, Sue Powers - banjo and vocals, Jan Hamilton-Sota - fiddle.

Images: Max's costume by Rachael House; Photograph of Max by Charlee Brodsky.

In the event of rain, activities will take place in the PCA Pavilion

Pittsburgh Pet-Tastic is supported by Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, with assistance from Carnegie Mellon School of Art and dog-fancying volunteers.

www.pittsburgharts.org | www.cmu.edu/art/ | www.rachaelhouse.com