



by Rich Whiting

# THE "ART" OF DATING

Being the resident single guy in the HQ office isn't easy. My boss is always poking fun and prying into my dating life. So I struck a deal with him. I told him I would write a Date Night article every issue as long as he picks up my tab. He agreed, but he set a few rules:

- 1) I have to take out a NEW girl every issue- no duplicate girls (even if I fall in love).
- 2) My rendezvous should give our readers creative, informative and inspirational dating ideas that can be easily replicated.
- 3) I can't run the tab up - \$300 beans is my Budget (works 4 me).

I knew was that it going to be hard to top my last outing with celebrity dating expert, Julia Allison. It's a good thing I still keep in touch with Julia because when chatting on email one day, I asked her if she had a twin I could take out for my next article. You see, this whole idea of having to take out a new girl every issue can get tricky. Anyway, while she didn't have a twin, she did have a ridiculously beautiful best friend who was just coming off a breakup.

Enter Meghan Asha. This former model-turned- Hedge-Fund-Queen is without a doubt the best referral a guy could get. Not only is Meghan stunning, she is also as smart as a whip. She even has a pending reality T.V. show in the works. Beauty and brains can be a dangerous combination, but I was up for the challenge.

As usual, my goal is to find something sensational to do. After a little research and due diligence, I come up with a plan that is sure to rouse the readers from their homes. I go with an artistic theme because although I'm not an artsy guy (I'm actually far from it), I have always been intrigued by the abstract world of art. So let me paint the picture for this rendezvous:

- Sight -seeing at the ultra cool Dream Hotel
- A mind - bending new restaurant named after Sigmund Freud's mother
- "Art after Dark Party" at the Guggenheim

It's a masterpiece of a plan!

We meet up at the entrance of the luxurious Dream Hotel and begin our exploration of this vibrant building. The lobby alone is like a mini museum featuring



Solomon R.Guggenheim Museum  
[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)  
 1071 Fifth Ave (at 89th St)  
 212-423-3500!



Dream Hotel  
[www.dreamny.com](http://www.dreamny.com)  
 210 W 55th St (Between Broadway & 7th Ave)  
 212-247-2000



Amalia Restaurant  
 204 W 55 St (Adjacent to Dream Hotel)  
 212-245-1234!

huge theatrical columns, billowing curtains, vaulted glass mirror ceilings and modern black marble floors. But what will really blow you away is the fascinating 5000-gallon fish tank smack dab in the middle of the floor. This massive marine exhibit is the largest indoor aquarium in North America. No, there isn't a treasure buried deep in the waters, but if you continue your exploration of the hotel, you will indeed find a gem. It's called "The Russian Lady" and this wild copper statue of Catherine the Great will literally drop your jaw.

The scene in this lavish lobby is quite surreal. I knew I was in for a treat, but I wasn't expecting this. I was in complete awe of my surroundings, not to mention I was a bit overwhelmed by the beautiful Meghan Asha. This girl is smoking hot and she is wearing an unforgettable dress! Unfortunately, it's time to move on as we are running late for our 7:30 reservations at the hotel's newest attraction.

Located adjacent to the Dream Hotel is our dinner destination, Amalia, literally named after the woman who gave birth to psychoanalysis (Sigmund Freud's mother). Amalia is midtown's hottest newcomer, and it certainly doesn't disappoint. As we walk in, we are instantly struck by the psychedelic décor. Thousands of candles, floating stairways that lead to nowhere, crystal chandeliers, an eclectic portrait gallery mounted on the ceiling, vertical steel beams enclosed in Plexiglas, exposed brick walls, marble fireplaces, romantic lighting, and turn-of-the-century wallpaper all collide in this dream-like space. This complex facility oozes creativity, all while boasting a killer Freudian subconscious.

And the fare is as lively and adventurous as the atmosphere. Meghan and I split what just might be the most delectable appetizer that I have ever encountered. Eggplant and goat cheese "Lasagnanette" is the name and it is a MUST have. For my main course I order the unusually spiced "Chorizo Stuffed Crispy Chicken" and my beautiful brunette companion ordered the "Chilean Sea Bass." The presentation of our cuisine was masterfully executed. Unfortunately, the entree did not last long on my plate; it seemed like I devoured my dish within minutes. Every bite exploded with flavor and distinctiveness. It's as though heralded chef Ivy Stark was able to entice and satisfy my every taste bud.

This mysteriously seductive restaurant is a true find. The delish Mediterranean fare will tickle your tongue, while the astonishing décor will dazzle your eyeballs. Make sure to keep Amalia's reservation number on your speed dial.

Next stop: The Guggenheim.

We jump into a cab and head uptown for the final leg of our art tour. I take advantage of our downtime to get to know Meghan a little better and find out more about this whole reality T.V. gig. She was keeping things on

the DL because nothing is official yet. But I was able to pry away enough information to catch the jest of it. Basically it's a spin on "Sex in the City," as cameras would follow around 5 sexy single babes and their explorations of the Big Apple. Sounds pretty cool, and I can tell you one thing for sure: the camera will absolutely fall in love with Meghan's killer smile.

We wave goodbye to the outside world as we enter the doors and mind of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural genius creation known as the Guggenheim. It only happens once a month, but the Guggenheim's "First Friday" series is not to be missed. From 9 pm to 1am on the first Friday (duh) of the month, the museum throws an "Art after Dark Party." It's a glorious trifecta of art, music, and booze.

As we looked on at the packed crowd, we weren't really sure if we were at a concert or a museum. But I took advantage of the moment and grabbed Meghan's hand as we ducked and weaved our way through the stop and go traffic. (Handholding might sound so 6th grade, but on a first date any contact is good. Plus a great way to sneak in the "handhold" is when surrounded by a crowd of spastic dancers impeding your progress.)

The brilliance about the design of the Guggenheim is its clever circular shape. You literally walk around and around 7 levels of spiraling ramp while viewing the art. However, you can't bring drinks up into the ramp section, which meant I was unable to splash Kaluah on any canvas.

The featured artist at the time was Richard Prince, whose emphasis consists of everything from Marlboro men, biker chicks and off color jokes, to gag cartoons and pulp fiction. As previously stated, art is not my forte (same with Meghan) but even with our lack of expertise in the field, we were still able enjoy this twisted exhibition.

Meghan tells me that she is not sure what is more interesting "the meticulously designed artwork or the bizarre antics and outfits of the overpopulated crowd." Not only is this an adventurous atmosphere in which to view art, but it also makes for great people watching, to say the least.

The Bottom-line: "First Fridays" at the Guggenheim are a refreshing break from the monotony of the dinner & a movie scene. While it may get overcrowded and the drinks are a bit expensive, consider it your contribution the New York City art scene.

After walking through this magical world of paintings, photos, ovals, arcs, circles and spheres, we decide to call it a night. We clearly have had our fill of art, even though I must admit that my mind wasn't entirely on art as I was rather preoccupied with my sexy date.

Hmmmm, I wonder if Meghan has a twin?

Questions, comments, want to set me up??  
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