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Jane's ADDICTION

In the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge spins proof that—
with enough elbow grease, tenacity, sacrifice, and belief—
anything is truly possible



Nearly three decades elapsed between the time artist Jane Valentas (STEINHARDT '85) won the Idora Park merry-go-round (above) at auction in Youngstown, Ohio, and the day it opened as Jane's Carousel on the banks of the East River (right).





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Walentas leaned heavily on her fine arts training to help her authentically restore the horses—carved and painted in 1922—to their former Roaring Twenties glory.



“Everyone except my husband and son thought I was crazy,” says Walentas of her passion project. “Even having my studio in DUMBO seemed nuts because it was so desolate when I started in the 1980s. There wasn’t anything here but a coffee truck outside and mice indoors.”



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While Superstorm Sandy damaged the electronics of the carousel's high-tech Jean Nouvel-designed pavilion (above right), the wooden equines remained, thankfully, unscathed.