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Art and Fashion Intersect at Art Production Fund Benefit

Dress code was 'tooth and nail' for the gala, across from where 'Hamilton' plays

By Marshall Heyman | March 17, 2016



Casey Fremont Crowe, Doreen Remen and Yvonne Force Villareal at the Art Production Fund benefit on Wednesday.
PHOTO: NEIL RASMUS/BFA

“Hamilton” may be one of the most enjoyable parties in town, but the annual Art Production Fund benefit, which took place across from the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Wednesday, certainly gave the musical a run for its money, at least for the evening.

A whole bunch of art and fashion people crowded the Diamond Horseshoe in the Paramount Hotel for what the organization billed as its “Concrete Jungle Gala.”

“This is for the art believers who work tooth and nail to thrive in this concrete jungle,” said Yvonne Force Villareal, the co-founder of the public art organization.

Did we mention that the requested dress code was “tooth and nail”?



Aimee Mullins and Rupert Friend at the Art Production Fund event.

The evening was sponsored by Gucci, which, with its new designer Alessandro Michele, is having a very colorful moment. Not particularly “concrete jungle” or “tooth and nail,” for that matter, but maybe this particular concrete jungle just has a ton of bright hues in it.

Ms. Force Villareal accessorized her fuchsia Gucci bowed gown with lots of metal jewelry for her fingers. Doreen Remen, the other APF co-founder, did the same to accompany her Gucci mint dress. Both Allison Sarofim and Rachelle Macpherson had on bright green Gucci bomber jackets. Casey Fremont Crowe, the executive director of APF, and Kiehl’s honcho Chris Salgado wore similar Gucci floral-patterned outfits.

“It’s his and hers,” said Mr. Salgado, referring to his embroidered fleshw-colored shirt and her embroidered bright yellow dress.

For a lot of guests, however, tooth and nail mostly translated to what they wear on other nights out: black. The jewelry designer Zani Gugelmann’s Alberta Ferretti outfit, however, was black with lots of embellished gold and silver studs.

“I love this,” Ms. Remen told Ms. Gugelmann. “It’s very concrete jungle.”

“So much jungle, so much concrete,” chimed in Adam Shopkorn, a co-founder, with his wife, Carolyn Angel, of Fort Gansevoort, a relatively new art space in the Meatpacking District.

“This party just keeps getting bigger and bigger,” added Ms. Gugelmann.

“I know,” replied Ms. Remen. “It’s like a family reunion.”

A family reunion, that is, emceed by Fab Five Freddy, who called Ms. Remen, Ms. Force Villareal and Ms. Fremont Crowe “drop-dead gorgeous ladies.”

Among the many guests at this particular reunion were Chloë Sevigny; Aimee Mullins and Rupert Friend; Fabiola Beracasa and Jason Beckman; Inez and Vinoodh; Steven Klein; Marilyn Minter; Eva Amurri; Rachel Feinstein and John Currin; Annalise Peterson and David Winter; Laurie Simmons; Cindy Sherman; Rebekah McCabe; Stacey Bendet Eisner; Amy Sacco; Aaron Young and Laure Hériard-Dubreuil; Nate Lowman; Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn; Kimry Blackwelder; Joey Jalleo; Sarah Cristobal and Dave Goldweitz; Inga Rubenstein; Dayssi and Paul de Knavos; Cynthia Rowley; Lisa Phillips, and Thelma Golden.



Thelma Golden and Duro Olowu at the gala.

The party honored the photographer Ryan McGinley and the artist Jane Kaplowitz Rosenblum, who wore a silver miniskirt, Gucci platform heels and a T-shirt that read “Save the World.”

“When are you doing your geriatric series?” Ms. Kaplowitz Rosenblum asked Mr. McGinley, who is known for his free-spirited images of his naked young friends.

“Ready when you are,” said Mr. McGinley.

“How about right now?” asked Ms. Kaplowitz Rosenblum.

“Now” wasn’t quite the time, exactly, especially because Mr. McGinley said he was having trouble breathing at the party. “Not because I’m nervous,” he explained, “but because I’m uptown.”

“I’m just excited about Fab Five Freddy,” he added. “I lived for ‘Yo! MTV Raps’ when I was a kid.”

Dinner, as catered by Silkstone, involved lots of grains, brussel sprouts shavings and root vegetables.

“There are a lot of radishes in this meal,” said one guest who didn’t want to be named. “It’s so healthy, I’m dying.”

The evening ended with a performance by the singer Lion Babe, a parting gift of a towel featuring artwork by Mr. McGinley, and of course, a glimpse at the crowd waiting outside the “Hamilton” stage door.