

ARTFORUM

Fund and Fancy Free

NEW YORK 04.16.10



Left: Fab 5 Freddy and Art Production Fund's Doreen Remen. Right: Art Production Fund's Casey Fremont, Kembra Pfahler, and Art Production Fund's Yvonne Force Villareal. (Except where noted, all photos: Jonathan Ziegler/Patrick McMullan)

"FOR YEARS, we've wanted to celebrate with our friends and embrace our deepest supporters, but we also wanted to take the time to really do it right," explained Art Production Fund cofounders Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Remen. Why else wait ten years to throw a blowout like Monday night's lavish APF Birthday Party/Benefit at The Standard? "Do you think it was worth the wait?"

With such ageless hostesses, who's counting, anyway? Force and Remen beamed as they warmly greeted each (!) attendee at the door. Gleeful old friends and new plus-ones coasted in and exchanged blessings, then trotted on to even more open arms (and bottles).

When Anne Pasternak arrived, artist Lucas Michael—the gregarious gals' former roommate twenty years ago at RISD—noted, "It's special when the president of Creative Time comes to an Art Production Fund event." Pasternak giggled as she and Remen compared cleavage, consulting with each other about where to bare one of the Kiki Smith–designed temporary tattoos that, later in the night, would brand almost every chest, shoulder, forearm, and cheek.

"It's rare that these individuals can gather so intimately," collector Aby Rosen elucidated. He paused to applaud a glam rock ensemble featuring Kembra Pfahler backed up by Deitch Projects director Kathy Grayson and artist Rosson Crow—all topless, all painted cardinal (or carnal?) red. Rosen continued: "It proves that Yvonne and Doreen are the center of a vital community."



Left: Artist Terence Koh. Right: Designer Donna Karan with Amy Sacco.

The performers' voluminous wigs were rivaled only by the magnificent bouffant of Jane Holzer, whom Force and Remen had toasted moments before. As one of the night's special honorees, "Baby" Jane answered cries for a speech with a concise, and sultry, "Thank you." She could say more with her stirring gaze, still electric even forty-five years after her oral courtship with a stick of gum for a Warhol screen test. The birthday/benefit also honored philanthropist Jennifer McSweeney, who directs the munificent Creative Link for the Arts. But ultimately, everyone looked like an honoree, mutually reinforcing fabulosity as the crowd multiplied. The Boom Boom Room was capacious enough to accommodate the rapid influx of hundreds of well-rubbed elbows. As collector scion Kyle DeWoody noted with a smirk, "This isn't the kind of crowd that waits in a line."

Midcareer power couple John Currin and Rachel Feinstein held court in one corner, within earshot of Tobias Meyer and Mark Fletcher, while Richard Phillips and Josephine Meckseper, along with Will and Rose Cotton, shuffled along the entryway corridor. Sean Landers roamed in distinguished-man-of-letters chic, more tempered than the distressed Narcissus articulated in his book, *sic*, which APF reanimated last month at a reading cosponsored with White Columns. Aimee Mullins (of *Cremaster* fame) shimmered in a floor-length gown, and Hauser & Wirth's Cay Sophie Rabinowitz accessorized with a sapphire Tom Binns necklace given to her by the recently late Malcolm McLaren and his partner Young Kim. Dealer Stefania Bortolami, four inches taller than usual, boasted that she was wearing heels "for the first time in years." And Terence Koh, who is collaborating with Lady Gaga in Tokyo this weekend on a "secret project," had taken his right-hand men shopping that day at Commes des Garçons to ensure that they be were up to (dress) code: "I'm glad that the recession is over."



Left: Jesse David Harris with collector Aly Rosen (right). (Photo: Michael Bilborough) Right: Aimee Mullins with Elke Overland.

An alien tourist might have wondered: What recession? Flutes of champagne spontaneously materialized; indeed, one might set down one's glass to shake a hand, then turn back to find that the drink had produced a twin. Leaving no detail unattended, Force and Remen had selected Dom Pérignon 2000. "The millennial vintage," confirmed Whitney curator Carter Foster.

As the night cooled and the crowd thinned, Remen cooed with Carlos Mota and some dashing ladies' men, while Force struck chiaroscuro poses in the exotic, candlelit set arranged by Jessica Craig-Martin. Among friends Amy Sacco and Casey Spooner—and a small army of ravishing blondes—Force reclined and vamped like a contemporary Olympia, her smile feline and flawless from all angles.

— Michael Bilborough



Left: Yvonne Force Villareal. (Photo: Michael Bilborough) Right: Creative Link for the Arts's Jennifer McSweeney with collector Jane Holzer.

