Fund and Fancy Free

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“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. Graceful old friends and new plus-ones coated in and exchanged blessings, then trotted on to even more open arms (and bottles).

When Anne Pasternak arrived, artist Lucas Michael—the gorgeous 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 Abby Rosen elucidated. He paused to applaud a glam rock ensemble featuring Kembra Pfahler backed up by Deitch Projects director Kathy Grayson and artist Rossion Crow—all topless, all painted cardinal (or carraff?) red. Rosen continued, “It proves that Yvonne and Doreen are the center of a vital community.”

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” Janie answered cries for a speech with a conciliatory, and suffix: “Thank you.” She could say more with her striking 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 DeWoodwy 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, shuttled 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 reprinted last month at a reading cosponsored with White Columns. Aimée 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 man 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.”