Lay it on me, Art Daddy-o
By Ben Diamond | March 13, 2018
Photographed by YVONNE TNT/BFA.COM

The party may have been confined to the Seagram’s Building, but the art world was “On the Road” last night for the Art Production Fund’s annual benefit. “UP Beat,” as the evening was called, was a tribute to every wild Eisenhower-era parties with a goateed fellow playing the bongos in the corner. Guests dusted off their berets and pulled their striped shirts off the shelf for a night of dinner, dancing and jazz.

“We always try to come up with a theme that’s different from the year before,” said Casey Fremont Crowe, the Fund’s Executive Director. “This time, we thought that right now, in contemporary time, it was an interesting time to look back at what the beatniks were doing during the ’50s and ’60s, to take their sensibilities and flip it, and make it ‘UP Beat.’” Among those grooving to the swinging jazz of the Bruce Harris Quartet were honorees Jeff Koons and Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn. It was Koons’ night more than anyone’s—guests played with metallic balloons modeled after his famous Balloon Dog, and his painting Monkey Train (Birds) was sold in a live auction for $50,000.

The Art Production Fund was founded in 2000 by Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Remen, dedicated to “commissioning and producing ambitious public art projects, reaching new audiences and expanding awareness through contemporary art.” Last night’s gala raised nearly $700,000 for the organization. Dig it.

Also in attendance were Laurie Simmons, Maria & Bill Bell, Marilyn Minter, Sarah Arison, Tory Burch, Stacey Bendet, Maria Borges, Fabiola Beracasa, Derrick Adams, Zoe Buckman, Wangeci Mutu, Athena Calderone, Sarah Hoover, and Bettina Prentice.
L to R: Megan DiCiurcio, Todd DiCiurcio and Yvonne Force Villareal; Todd DiCiurcio and Al-Baseer Holly; Annelise Winter, Nicky Hilton Rothschild and Stacey Bendet

L to R: Sara Friedlander; Casey Fremont Crowe, Jeff Koons and Chris Salgado; Tory Burch and Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn

L to R: Will Cotton and Rebekkah McCabe; Amy Astley and Bettina Prentice