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INSIDE ART

Carol Vogel

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We Brake for the Armory

From Sept. 18 to 23, 288 panels of plywood in layers of fluorescent reds, pinks, oranges and yellows over which black lacquer has been painted, will cover the cavernous, 60,000-square-foot floor of the drill hall of the Seventh Regiment Armory. Ten motorcycle riders will perform on the floor, following specific directions from Aaron Young, a New York-based artist. Their synchronized movements will form a pattern on the wood, revealing the fluorescent colors beneath the surface. When the bikes stop and the exhaust has cleared, the streaks left by braking tires — uncovering layers of paint — will reveal a giant multicol-

ored work.

The piece, to be called "Greeting Card," should glow, said Tom Eccles, director of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Mr. Eccles is also the artistic adviser for a nonprofit organization called the Seventh Regiment Armory Conservancy, the armory's new landlord, which formally acquired the management of the crenelated red-brick landmark, on Park Avenue between 66th and 67th Streets, from the State of New York in December.

Rebecca Robertson, the conservancy's president and chief executive, said the project was conceived "to introduce people to a new use for the drill hall." It was also purposely scheduled right before the armory's packed calendar of art and antique shows.

"This is found space," Ms. Robertson added. "And there aren't many of them in New York for either art or performances."

When word began circulating that the conservancy was looking for projects, the Art Production Fund, a nonprofit organization in Manhattan dedicated to producing ambitious, large-scale art projects, approached Ms. Robertson and proposed Mr. Young's installation.

Mr. Eccles said the project was appealing because it was a chance to bring the work of a younger artist uptown and because it demonstrated that the armory offers a grand scale that few other places in the city do. "It can also show projects that are raw, because the space is like a gigantic, elegant warehouse in the city," he said.