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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Artist Raises the Roof

At the Explorers Club on Tuesday evening, artist David Brooks toasted his new public exhibit, "Desert Rooftops," a 5,000-square-foot sculpture located in a surprisingly vacant lot on 46th Street and Eighth Avenue. Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Remen, the always fashionable art patrons and founders of the Art Production Fund, commissioned the piece, along with Sotheby's, after working out a short-term donation deal with the Shubert Organization, which owns the lot.

The sculpture consists of actual, asphalt-shingled rooftops, fashioned by contractors using

typical materials. "It's part of the real world," said Mr. Brooks. "It's not part of the representational world. They're visceral portraits, an alternative to statistics."

But by rolling out like dunes, sans adjoining houses, the rooftops become "absurdist," as Mr. Brooks describes them. They're also, the artist imagines, confusing to the millions of tourists who will walk by them each day for the next three months, straining their necks to double-take the sculpture.

"Even as we constructed them," he said, "people were asking, 'Is this a new school?'"



Alexander Porter/Billy Farrell Agency

David Brooks

"Is this an underground nightclub?" They're not, he cautions "didactic in nature," though they speak to "McMansions" and "suburban sprawl."

—Mike Vilensky