

Art Production Fund's Gangs Of New York Gala Honors Haim Steinbach And Proenza Schouler

by Bettina Zilkha | April 2, 2015



Lazaro Hernandez, Yvonne Force Villareal, Doreen Remen, Casey Fremont Crowe & Jack McCollough. Photos: BFA NYC

Art Production Fund held its Gangs of New York Gala Tuesday night at the Downtown Association. This year's honorees included artist Haim Steinbach, and Proenza Schouler designers Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez. All proceeds will support Art Production Fund's public commissions.

"The idea behind starting APF was born from a desire to help great artists realize projects that might otherwise not happen and to allow as many people as possible to experience these projects," said Yvonne Force Villareal, who co-founded APF with Doreen Remen. "Living with art is essential for the spirit but not everybody has that opportunity."

“In 2010 we had a gala event to celebrate ten years of APF, and that turned into a yearly benefit,” said Remen. “We try to do something a little different each year, and this year in terms of theme we wanted to connect to the essence of what we do. When we secured the venue – a former maritime lawyers club – we started thinking of the beginnings of New York City. The film *Gangs of New York* came up in a brainstorm with Jack and Lazaro, and we all loved it as representative of the gangs of creative people that make New York what it is. For Jack and Lazaro, art is integral to their work. They look towards artists and their practices for inspiration. They have actually collaborated with the evening’s artist honoree Haim Steinbach. APF loves incredible fashion but also a contemporary art world that is relevant to more people.”

Proenza Schouler’s Spring 2015 collection featured fringe, leather and crochet. Luminaries from the entertainment, art and fashion worlds, including Liv Tyler, David Schwimmer, Rachel Feinstein, Amy Astley, Lauren Santo Domingo, and Casey Fremont, paid homage in one way or another to the designers.

“It’s not enough to cull from the history of fashion when creating a collection, one needs to pull contemporary ideas from the world at large,” said Hernandez. “There is no single place richer in ideas than the world of contemporary art.”

Haim Steinbach’s installation featured a pair of green fringed suede Proenza Schouler shoes, made especially for the piece.

“The installation is about space and object,” said Steinbach. “Objects are in space; even if they’re outside on the lawn, they change from place to place. You want to take the space into consideration when you’re invited to do something. It’s like writing a poem – you take on something that inspires you that has to do with the occasion and the place, and find some connections. Right now it is springtime, and I have a text there about peaches and ‘pairs’ [a double-entendre referring to the fruit and the shoes]. We’re looking forward to seeing the fruit growing on the trees, and we also have wonderful designers, Lazaro and Jack, who are remarkable. They came up with a pair of shoes that would be perfect for springtime if they were in green. I requested to have them in green and they said ‘we will make them for you’. As a result, I’m also honoring them by finding a way of contextualizing their poetry in an extensive poem that hopefully will build in the narrative.”



Fabiola Beracasa-Beckman & Valerie Boster



Lauren Santo Domingo



Amy Astley, Indre Rockefeller, David Hallberg, & Annelise Peterson Winter



Victoria Traina



Zoe Buckman & David Schwimmer



Liv Tyler



Jack McCollough & Lazaro Hernandez



Jessica Joffe



Hanna Liden & Andrea Rosen



Karen Wong & Lisa Phillips



Rachel Chandler Guinness



Sofia Sanchez Barrenechea



Annelise Peterson Winter



Arden Wohl & Erin Fetherston



Meghan Moody & Marilyn Minter



Haim Steinbach



Athena Calderone



Casey Fremont Crowe, Yvonne Force Villareal & Doreen Remen



Haim Steinbach Installation



Doreen Remen & Zani Gugelmann



Will Cotton



Stefano Tonchi



Bethanie Brady, David Schwimmer & Zoe Buckman



Derek Blasberg & Lazaro Hernandez



Haim Steinbach Installation



Genevieve Jones