

HEARD & SCENE

Going Gangbusters For Art, Real Estate

It's important to the ladies behind the Art Production Fund, an organization devoted to creating public art projects, that their annual gala has a theme. It makes the evening a little more fun and creative for their guests, which this year included Liv Tyler, David Schwimmer and Zoe Buckman, Fabiola Beracasa, Lauren Santo Domingo, Paul Haggis, Maria Baibakova and artists like Lisa Yuskavage, John Currin and Rachel Feinstein, Dan Colen, Marilyn Minter and Cindy Sherman.



MARSHALL HEYMAN

The location preceded the "Gangs of New York" theme at this year's party. The Down Town Association on Pine Street is the fifth oldest club in New York.

"We wanted to get at the essence of old downtown New York," said Doreen Remen, the co-founder, with Yvonne Force Villareal, of APF.

The space made them think of the 2002 Scorsese picture starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz, "which then made us think about all the creative gangs in this city," added Ms. Remen.

The evening honored the artist Haim Steinbach and the fashion designers Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler, who showed a lot of fringe in their recent collection. Thereby, attire was

requested as "on the fringe," which meant "some people literally wore fringe," said Ms. Remen. And some people dressed like they were on the fringe of society, like gangsters.

Will Cotton made photo portraits of guests during cocktails with a vintage camera that he said he only really figured out how to use once the cocktail hour had ended. Sean Landers provided cartoonlike temporary tattoos, featuring smooching deer and a sexy cat. And Hanna Liden made centerpieces for each table of cast bronze seeded bagels. They served as a preview of a larger bagel sculpture project Ms. Liden will do this summer, sponsored by Kiehl's.

When Ms. Liden moved to the States from Stockholm, "she had never seen bagels before," said Ms. Remen. "She got obsessed with them."

Of course, every party you go to in New York attracts a certain gang, be it an arty gang that admires bronzed bagel sculptures, or a fashion-y gang that gets transported to Austria for a Chanel show uptown.

Ronald Perelman has a gang of his own, including folks like Brett Ratner, Ron Delsener, Shelli Azoff, Mickey Drexler, Tom Freston, and Penny Marshall. They all gathered at Mr. Perelman's home Wednesday to congratulate their fellow gang member, actress Lorraine Bracco, on her new book.



MADISON MCGAW/BILLY FARRELL AGENCY

Clockwise from above: Yvonne Force Villareal, Chris Salgado and Doreen Remen at the Art Production Fund party; John Robshaw and Condé Nast Traveler's Pilar Guzman at the Baccarat Hotel on 53rd Street; and Ronald Perelman and Lorraine Bracco celebrate Ms. Bracco's new book.

"I wanted to call it, 'I'm Not Dead Yet,'" said Ms. Bracco, adding that another potential title was a unprintable prayer that she'd still be desirable at 70 years old. Instead Ms. Bracco, who knows a thing or two about gangs thanks to her roles in "Goodfellas" and "The Sopranos," settled on "To the Fullest: The Clean Up Your Act Plan to Lose Weight, Rejuvenate, and Be the Best You Can Be."

Years ago, Ms. Bracco and Mr. Perelman dated "for a minute," he said.

"I remember it was two," she said.

"I figured there would be a

dedication to me in the book," said Mr. Perelman. "But there was no dedication. So I look in the index, and just before 'Pesticides,' there was 'Perelman.'"

It's hard to think of a New York gang that wouldn't want to hang out at the newly opened, over-the-top Baccarat Hotel on 53rd Street. To celebrate the new property as well as a feature on it in the May issue of Condé Nast Traveler, on Wednesday, the magazine's editor Pilar Guzman and Starwood Group Capital CEO Barry Sternlicht hosted the first dinner at the downstairs

restaurant Chevalier. Among the varied assortment of guests: Allen and Deborah Grubman, Gillian and Sylvester Miniter, Jessica Seinfeld, David and Lauren Bush Lauren, Henry and Ana Pincus and Fabrizio and Marianne Freda.

First there were cocktails at the second floor bar, which features fur-covered chairs, lots of half-face sculptures and a Valkyrie hat made of crystals.

"I hope that comes down later," said the jewelry designer Waris Ahluwalia, admiring the crown.

It didn't, but dinner—diver scallops with morels and aged



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NICHOLAS HUNT/PATRICK MCMULLAN

comté cheese as well as black sea bass with lemon verbena and warm asparagus salad—was good enough to forget.

Mr. Sternlicht said that a side goal to opening the Baccarat is to "bring the whole block to life." This includes a restoration of the library next door as well as a new roof of the Museum of Modern Art across the street so hotel patrons have better views. As for what a night stay is like at the Baccarat, Mr. Sternlicht wasn't yet sure.

"I'm staying over tonight for the first time," he said. "I'll tell you tomorrow."