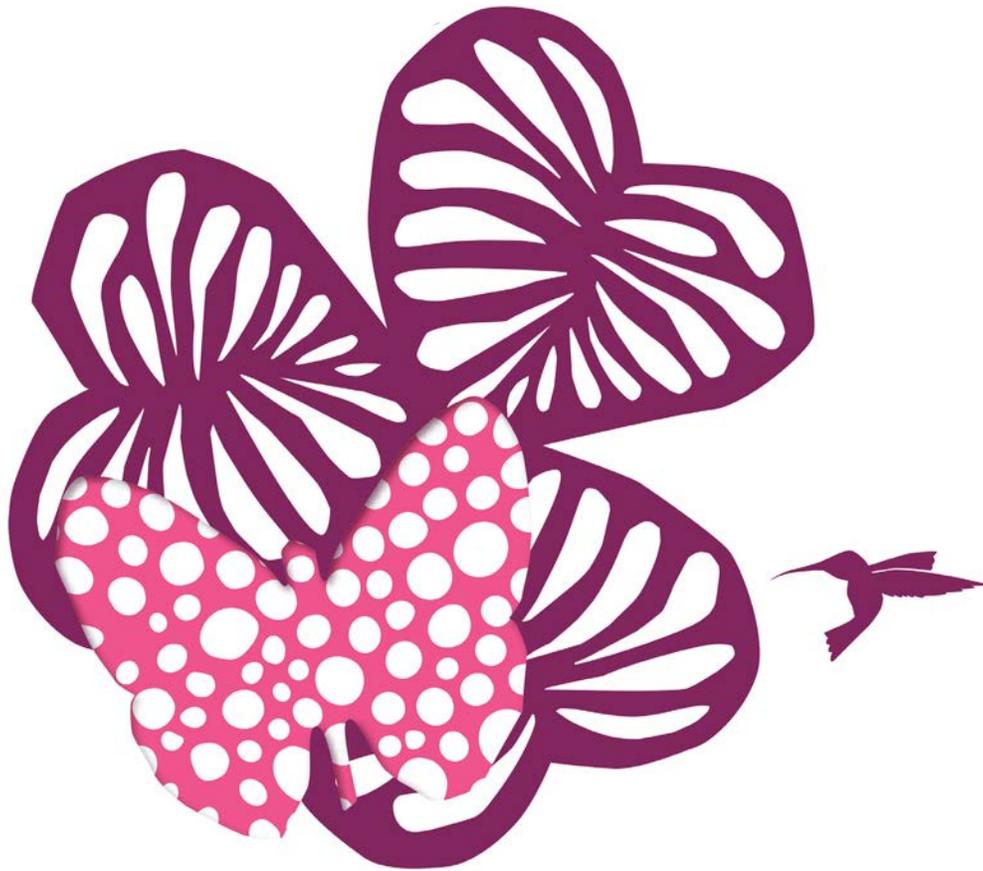


TRIBECA BALL

HONORING

Laurie Simmons & Carroll Dunham



Monday, April 7, 2014

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART



TRIBECA BALL 2014

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NY CULTURE

Student Artists Receive Honorary Doctorates

Artists Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham Honored at the New York Academy of Art

By REBECCA BRATBURD

April 8, 2014 11:07 p.m. ET

Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham *Nicholas Hunt/patrickmcmullan.co*

The New York Academy of Art on Franklin Street transformed into a lavish garden-themed open studio party for its annual Tribeca Ball on Monday night. With the theme “nature inspires,” the evening raised \$600,000 for student scholarships and public programs.

The event attracted the gallery owner Barbara Gladstone; the writer Bob Colacello; the painter Will Cotton; the model Julie Henderson; the actress Dascha Polanco; the socialite Marjorie Gubelmann; and the Pioneer Works founder Dustin Yellin, among hundreds of more supporters.

Guests could pose for photos with Adam and Eve—or models posing as the couple—on one floor and take turns on a pastel pink swing on another level. Van Cleef & Arpel, the

sponsor of the party, showed its flowery Cosmos jewelry collection on models donning colorful floral crowns.

“To tell you the truth, the whole school is inspired by Van Cleef because they create a theme and a tone and even the students are inspired by it,” said Eileen Guggenheim, the school’s Board of Trustees chair.

The school’s 100 or so students showed their work—mostly anatomical paintings—while enjoying live music and cocktails.

Student Jehdy Ann Vargas displayed her paintings, two life-size human-shaped candles, candy, fruits and a video installation featuring her aunt performing a healing ritual in a shower. The art drew from her family’s traditions with Santeria, a syncretic religion practiced in her native Dominican Republic.

“I find painting romantic. It’s romantic. Most of my art is therapeutic,” said Ms. Vargas, who will graduate from New York Academy of Art next year. “I’m taking my past and recreating it and making it come alive with paint.”

Later, at the party’s mystical dinner—its menu crafted by the chef Daniel Boulud—New York Academy of Art President David Kratz presented artists Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham—aka Lena Dunham’s parents—with honorary doctorates.

“We’ve both taught for years at a number of schools including Ivy League schools and we’ve always managed to keep it a secret that we don’t have one of these, so this is so thrilling,” Ms. Simmons told the crowd.

The painter Walton Ford said movie stars now live where artists like him got their start in TriBeCa, leaving little room for an art scene in the neighborhood.

“There are still really wealthy artists that live here,” he said. “When I was young, like in the 1980s, this was legitimately a place where artists could live. Nobody wanted to live here. The city was full of crime and it was hot. There was no air conditioning, no cable, no nothing.”

Padma Lakshmi, a host of “Top Chef,” said it’s nice to have the Academy to remind her of “the spirit of downtown New York art.”

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303456104579489660290305086>

Interview

NIGHTLIFE

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART'S TRIBECA BALL HONORS LAURIE SIMMONS AND CARROLL DUNHAM

Photography BILLY FARRELL AND NEIL
RASMUS/BFANYC.COM



Last night, art world luminaries attended the Tribeca Ball, held for the New York Academy of Art at its Franklin Street headquarters. Honored—with doctorates, no less—were two established New York artists, Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham (parents of Lena).

“We’ve taught for years at Ivy Leagues,” said Simmons, accepting the diplomas, “—always having to pretend that we have one of these.”

Aptly, most of the evening focused on student artists. Guests including Bob Colacello, Todd Eberle, Walton Ford, Barbara Gladstone, Dustin Yellin, Padma Lakshmi, and Harley Viera-Newton, as well as chairs Alan Cumming, Amy Astley, and Jane Rosenthal, spent a nearly three-hour reception perusing pupils’ small but triumphant showcases, presented in compact studios packed tightly throughout five floors.

With the 35-year-old academy’s reputation for top-notch classical education, sheer technical prowess compelled passerby to stop and speak with artists, many of whom had business cards.

Simmons enjoyed a nostalgic moment. “It smells so great,” she smiled, pausing on the fourth floor of the art school.

The scene, however, felt rather like a microcosm of the greater art world—making for a good lesson. Attendees—who could have the potential to jumpstart careers—hopped from cube to cube. It was not unlike an art fair, or even Chelsea on a Saturday afternoon. With every new visitor, artists, breathless, articulated their concepts.

“I lost my voice recently,” said postgraduate fellow Elizabeth Glaessner, slightly hoarse. With an upcoming show at PPOW, Glaessner found herself surrounded by a gaggle of editors by the end of hour three. “I’ve been getting a lot of questions about the content, and the narrative and the story behind my art. It’s been fun.” We asked her to explain it just one more time, and a shadow of exhaustion flickered across her face—though she graciously described how her engrossing mixed-media paintings are meant to evoke a post-apocalyptic search for identity.

“I can’t imagine what it feels like [for new artists today],” reflected Simmons. “When I was young, it felt more marginal. Now the understanding of the art world is really present. But you gotta do what you gotta do.”

Lighthearted art world phenomena abounded as well: Around every corner was a surprise art-music performance, with at least one crooning, accordion-playing bride. Sponsor Van Cleef & Arpels set the theme according to its “Nature-Inspires” collection. As part of this, beautiful ladies with flower laurels wandered about—omnipresent and elusive as the artist’s muse. —Rachel Small



Nature Studies

The New York Academy of Art honored Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham at its annual gala.

April 8, 2014 6:02 PM | by [Todd Plummer](#)

For another year in a row, the tenth-floor galleries of Sotheby's gleaming York Avenue headquarters—quite eagerly described by one fur-lined guest as “the penthouse”—hosted Take Home a Nude on Tuesday night. The charity auction, which provides the lion's share of yearly funding for the Andy Warhol-founded New York Academy of Art, lived up to its past self, offering an overwhelming spectacle that included stilt walkers, event regular Naomi Watts and Mary-Kate Olsen (on the arm of Olivier Sarkozy), and hundreds of naked men and women—depicted in paintings, drawings, and sculptures—lining the walls.

The auction was hardly silent as speakers worthy of the Barclays Center announced which works were on the block as guests made their way through the throngs of would-be collectors, many gravitating toward a Christo screenprint of the Ponte Sant'Angelo wrapped in the artist's iconic fabric, which was one of the night's surprise hits. Auction cochairs Daphne Guinness and L'Wren Scott, both in cloaklike dresses that puddled around their feet, glided across the galleries as if floating rather than walking, causing one guest to joke that the ethereally elegant women “couldn't be less nude.”

Standing in front of an Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin print, Raquel Z-Featherweight, as time was running out, Lake Bell and Scott Campbell deliberated about which pieces to bid on. “I want one of her,” the dutiful new husband said, indicating Ms. Bell. In the room next door, Zani Gugelmann attempted to pull Misha Nonoo out of conversation before her favorite piece of the evening, a small white canvas with black, Rorschach-like forms, was auctioned off, to no avail. “I don't even know who the artist was,” the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund finalist lamented. “It would have made the perfect piece for a loo.” Nonoo's husband, Paddle8 cofounder Alexander Gilkes was on duty last night, having previewed the works for sale on his startup auction site, though the seasoned auctioneer was relieved to at least not be at the podium (a Sotheby's representative held down the fort instead).

When it came time for the live auction—the evening's main event—designer Charles Harbison and Vogue's Kathryn Neale paid rapt attention, despite the fact that neither were bidding. “I'd kill for that John Alexander,” the North Carolina-born designer said, nodding toward the oil on canvas depiction of a small monkey named Romeo, “but my only investment right now has to be Harbison.” Judging by the blue silk frock that Neale was wearing, we've no doubt he'll be bidding sooner than he thinks.

<http://www.wmagazine.com/parties/2014/04/tribeca-ball-laurie-simmons/photos/>

artnet[®]news

The New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball Offers Something Other Galas Don't

Cait Munro, Tuesday, April 8, 2014



Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham.
Photo: Nicholas Hunt / PatrickMcMullan.com.

Monday night's Tribeca Ball presented by Van Cleef & Arpels was undoubtedly one of the most fun parties of the spring gala season. It had the hip guest list, the incredible outfits, and the gourmet food, but it also had something you don't see all the time at these art events—actual art. Guests were free to roam the halls of the New York Academy of Art (NYAA)—(cocktails in hand, of course—exploring the students' studios and, in many cases, making purchases. While some students were less than thrilled about having to tidy up their work spaces, we spoke to one young artist who had sold an entire wall of paintings—we suspect it was all worth it in his case.

The event was in honor of Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham, but unfortunately we didn't spot their daughter Lena Dunham anywhere. We did, however, see Padma Lakshmi, Alan Cumming, Harley Viera-Newton, Dustin Yellin, Michael Shvo, Glenn O'Brien, and Bob Colacello.

STYLE. COM/

"Oil Paint, Plasticine, and Sweaty Bodies"

Inside the Tribeca Ball with honorees Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham



April showers continued to pound the city last night, but inside Tribeca's New York Academy of Art, spring was already in full bloom. For the annual Tribeca Ball, five floors of the building had been transformed into a Garden of Eden, complete with students' work, performances by musicians and artists, and models roaming around accessorized with large, floral headpieces and jewels by Van Cleef & Arpels.

"This feels like Sleep No More, only with the lights on," said one partygoer on the crowded fifth floor, as she passed the live art tableau featuring a man and a woman dressed like Adam and Eve. Artist Carroll Dunham, who was being honored with his wife, Laurie Simmons (they happen to be the parents of Girls' Lena Dunham), concurred: "It's hard to see the art because there are so many people. I don't really trust myself looking in such a crowded situation." Simmons, for her part, was busy taking in the aromas swirling about the studios. "I just really love the way it smells here," she told Style.com before sitting down with the likes of Dustin Yellin, Alan Cumming, Padma Lakshmi, and Misha Nonoo. "All art schools smell the same—it's a mix of oil paint, plasticine, and sweaty bodies."

Midway through a dinner by Daniel Boulud, when Simmons and her husband were presented with honorary doctorates of fine arts, she admitted to the crowd, "We have taught at a number of schools, including Ivy Leagues, and we have always managed to keep it a secret all these years that we don't have one of these." It doesn't have to remain a secret anymore, Dr. Simmons.

Daily

FRONT ROW

2014 April 8

The Tribeca Ball's Arty Five-Floor Bash

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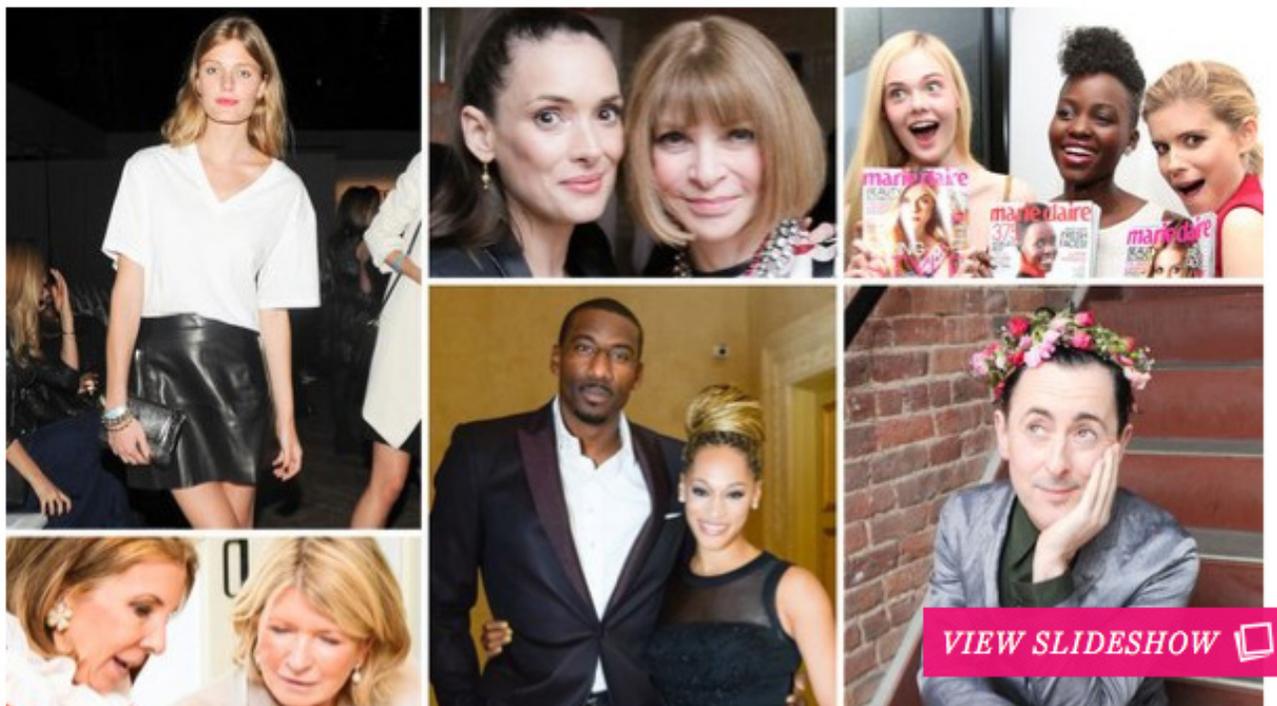
Carroll Dunham, Barbara Gladstone, Amy Astley, Laurie Simmons

Billy Farrell Agency

(NEW YORK) “So, have you bought any pieces yet?”: That was the oft-repeated question of the evening at the annual art-intensive Tribeca Ball. Housed in the New York Academy of Art, guests in cocktail attire and heels traipsed up and down five flights of stairs to check out the hundreds of canvases, sculptures, and installations on display from the academy’s students. With ample recharging stations (aka, bars stocked with wine and beer) guests were fueled to weave in and out of the miniature studios, interspersing purchases with air kisses. The young artists themselves were on hand with the task of selling their paintings and drawings, while others provided entertainment in the form of a live string performance. That was just the cocktail hour...

The young artists weren’t the only focus of the night: Caroll Dunham and Laurie Simmons were the honorees of the Ball, though their daughter, Lena Dunham, was notably absent. But not to worry, there were plenty of other designer-clad attendees to revel over. The editrix set in attendance included Glenda Bailey of Harper’s Bazaar, Amy Astley of Teen Vogue, and Eva Chen of Lucky, while designers Whitney Pozgay, Misha Nonoo, Tia and Fiona Cibani, Nicole Miller, and Ippolita Rostagno also turned out for the occasion. In addition there was Alan Cumming, Padma Lakshmi, Harley Viera-Newton, and Bob Colacello. Needless to say, the building was utterly packed with art-lovers, collectors, and party girls alike. Van Cleef & Arpels sponsored the eve, and they provided more than just bijoux-encrusted models. Their most recent collection inspired the bash’s theme: Nature Inspires. Thus, the fifth floor was covered in a wash of hot pink light with white floral cutouts growing from the ceiling and walls. The flora-centric theme also involved fresh floral crowns. The charitable evening raises money for scholarships for future students to attend the Academy, in addition to aiding current students and helping with the costs of public programs. A win-win for all, right? Especially those who headed home with a few new works of art.

DENA SILVER



4/10/14 at 5:10 PM | 2

Party Pics: Lupita Nyong'o, Winona Ryder, Elle Fanning, and More

BY ERICA SCHWIEGERSHAUSEN



This week New York saw its first burst of true spring weather, and the city's parties were accordingly awash with bare legs and festive florals: Alan Cumming — currently riding out his Cabaret resurgence — wore a crown of fresh flowers to the New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball, and Martha Stewart attended the Laduree and Faberge luncheon sporting a seasonal floral brooch. Vogue hosted a screening of the David Hare film, *Turks and Caicos*, featuring Winona Ryder, who showed up wearing a Saint Laurent blazer and cream-colored gown, practically glowing as she chatted away with Anna Wintour. In L.A., Lupita Nyong'o, Kate Mara, and Elle Fanning compared their Marie Claire covers, while back on the East Coast, everyone from Mickey Boardman to Joseph Altuzarra showed up to support Jeffrey Fashion Cares at the Armory. Click through our slideshow for these and more highlights from this week's party circuit.



NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART HOSTS THE TRIBECA BALL

AUDREY ROSE SMITH



Last week, the New York Academy of Art and Van Cleef & Arpels hosted the annual TriBeCa Ball presented by Laurie Simmons and Carroll Dunham. The event incorporated four expansive and featured the work of students from the New York Academy of the Arts. Established in 1982 by artists, patrons and scholars, the Academy's mission was to teach the importance of figurative painting and to reintroduce representation into art.

This came at a moment when young artists were more excited about the word "Factory" than "Academy." While Andy Warhol was an early patron, "Academy" and "Factory" don't summon the same ideas to mind. However, Warhol did practice representation in a literal way with his newspaper sourced imagery, from car crashes to Marilyn and everything in-between. Pop, one could argue, was the most representational depiction of the times. Minimalism and Conceptualism that swept in after — now that's a different tale.

I was most struck by the young artists who showed a clear talent for figuration matched with an equal talent for distortion, bordering on perversion. In one painting a man's body hovers over two seated women who seem unaware of his ghostly presence (Ge Mei). Another series of photorealist 'bodiescapes,' painted with extreme focus and precision, result in the decomposition of the body (Krista Louise Smith).

And then there is the cropped and chopped perspective (Chao Wang) that seems as if realized by an artist whose eye for framing is shaped by the aesthetics of the camera phone generation.

So what was the evening aside from a wine soaked gathering of art world celebrities colored by a gaggle of six-foot-tall flower-headed femmes? If nothing else, it was a superb reminder that the figure is not square, in fact, it can be wonderfully daring, inventive and magical when in the right hands.

<http://gotham-magazine.com/personalities/articles/naomi-watts-lwren-scott-and-lake-bell-at-take-home-a-nude>



NEW YORK

3/12/2014 at 3:34 PM | 12 Comments

Laurie Simmons Learned How to Drive (From Cindy Sherman) for Love

By Vanita Salisbury

Name: Laurie Simmons

Age: 64

Neighborhood: Tribeca

Occupation: Artist, with a show of new work currently up at Salon 94. On April 7, she and her husband Carroll Dunham will be honored at the New York Academy's Tribeca Ball.

Who's your favorite New Yorker, living or dead, real or fictional?

Kitty Carlisle Hart. I wanted to be her. So chic and urbane.

What's the best meal you've eaten in New York?

I used to get Japanese fried chicken and tekkamaki every Friday night at a conveyor-belt sushi place called Genroku on Fifth Avenue around 36th Street. Then I would hit the ten-dollar sale rack at Macy's, where you could find a stunning range of designer things nobody else wanted. After that I would meet up with my boyfriend, who got off work at midnight. This was a long time ago.

In one sentence, what do you actually do all day in your job?

Walk back and forth between my refrigerator, my computer, and my camera.

What was your first job in New York?

I painted apartments with a specialty in hanging vintage floral wallpapers – an I Love Lucy-style glue mess. I also babysat for a Bedlington terrier.

What's the last thing you saw on Broadway?

I saw Nico Muhly's opera, *Two Boys*, at the Met, and *Small Engine Repair*, directed by Jo Bonney, at the Lucille Lortel. I realize neither of those are on Broadway, but they should have been.

Do you give money to panhandlers?

Yes. Continuously.

What's your drink?

Coffee and UltraClear (enjoyed separately).

How often do you prepare your own meals?

I am a binge-cooker. It's the less enjoyable version of being a binge eater.

What's your favorite medication?

Transcendental.

What is the best thing in or about your apartment?

My husband lives there.

What's the craziest thing you've ever seen on the subway?

A woman in a complete Tyrolean dirndl pinafore dress and apron got up and kicked a Japanese tourist really hard in the shins and said "STOP staring!" (He wasn't.)

When was the last time you stayed out past 3 a.m.?

I had a habit when younger of exiting certain beaux's apartments in the early a.m. and taking a leisurely stroll home. When I remember that now I can only think, Wow! The city was really dangerous then!

Which do you prefer, the old Times Square or the new Times Square?

SO the old Times Square. I used to like going there and feeling anxious.

What do you think of Mayor de Blasio?

I think he and his family are a great addition to our New York political landscape — a "first family" that really looks and seems like the diverse, culturally rich city we love. I'll be interested to see how he and Ms. Chirlane McCray bring a new public focus on music, writing, and art that have too often been confined to the margins and outer boroughs of NYC.

What do you hate most about living in New York?

I love living in New York.

If you could banish one person from New York forever, who would it be?

That kind of changes daily from (fill-in-the-blank's) drug dealer to the woman who stole my cab this morning.

When's the last time you drove a car?

Last week. I love to drive, though I didn't really learn until I was 32. Cindy Sherman taught me in Syracuse where the roads were pretty empty because my then-boyfriend (current husband) told me that he would never marry someone who couldn't drive.

Finish this sentence: The NYPD _____.

Should make a calendar like the FDNY. (Or have they already?)

Times, Post, or Daily News?

All three if I have the time.

Where do you go to be alone?

I'm alone in the studio all the time. More interesting is where I go to be with people.

What makes someone a New Yorker?

A sharp tongue, a good sense of humor, and a pet they're obsessed with.