



TRIBECA BALL 2018

PRESS COVERAGE



PREVIEW COVERAGE

**GUEST OF A GUEST
VOGUE**

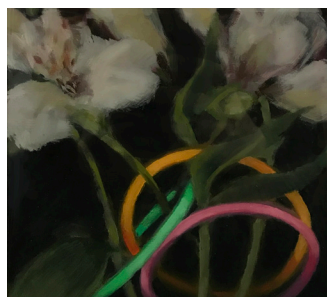


7 Pieces You Need To Buy Before The 2018 Tribeca Ball

By Christie Grimm April 3, 2018

And just like that, it's that magic time of year again - the downtown social event of the season, The Tribeca Ball, is upon us. The fanciest open house around, the evening features floors upon floors of festivities, as attendees like Mary-Kate Olsen, Naomi Watts, Brooke Shields, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Donna Karan and more weave their way in and out of studio spaces displaying the remarkable works of the New York Academy of Art's students. With their projects and pieces sold off to the haute crowd, proceeds from the evening go to support scholarships for the school's talented artists and public programs.

Busy April 9th? Couldn't snag an invite? No worries, you can still totally swipe that amazing painting right out from under Naomi Watts. Paddle8 is hosting a preview auction of the works set to be on display! And as always, there's some pretty cool shit.





At New York's Tribeca Ball, Stilt Walkers Mingle With Celebrities

April 2, 2018 8:12 PM by Todd Plummer

There are at least as many galas in New York as there are days in a year. Pass by Cipriani 42nd Street or Gotham Hall any night of the week and you are bound to see more than a few of Manhattan's do-gooders donning their black-tie and clinking champagne flutes in the name of a charitable cause. In a philanthropic landscape that is as vast and varied as the city itself, standing out can be a challenge. One annual party, however, continues to stun year after year: the New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball.

The NYAA has a history of being a scrappy outlier. Founded in 1982 by a group of artists including Andy Warhol, the school's original mission was to foster classical technique, figurative art, and critical discourse at a time when New York's art world was more interested in conceptual art and abstraction. The Academy started in a rented-out space in a church basement on Lafayette Street, and when Andy Warhol passed away in 1987, he left a bequest to the Academy, allowing it to purchase its 111 Franklin Street headquarters in Tribeca. As with any non-profit arts institution, it became clear that fundraising for the NYAA would be crucial to the maintenance of its building, as well as the Academy's survival and continued growth. In 1994, they organized the first Tribeca Ball.

TRIBECA BALL 2018



The idea of the Tribeca Ball has generally remained more or less the same over the last twenty-four years—always held in the Franklin Street building, it starts with a cocktail hour where NYAA students welcome patrons into their studios to observe and perhaps purchase their work, then is followed by a glamorous dinner in the first-floor “Cast Hall,” where a collection of 19th century plaster casts are on permanent loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



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Starry Eyed at the New York Academy of Art's 23rd Annual Tribeca Ball

April 10, 2018 by Kristina Adduci

On Monday, April 9, 2018, a host of notable movers and shakers from the art, fashion, media and business worlds descended upon the New York Academy of Art's historic building at 111 Franklin Street for their 23rd annual Tribeca Ball. The stars were literally out in full force, and we don't just mean Naomi Watts or Brooke Shields who both were in attendance. The theme, 'Poetic Astronomy' had partygoers in 'celestial chic' alongside



interactive installations, live art-making demonstrations, roaming musicians, celestial fairies handing out chocolate covered pretzels, poets and fortune tellers. Inspired by Van Cleef & Arpels timepieces, the Ball immersed guests in the starry world with stilt walkers attired as constellations and an exclusive dinner from renowned chef Daniel Boulud served under a dazzling midnight sky. Bars on every level were stocked with Champagne Jeeper, Proximo Spirits, and VOSS Artesian Water.

One of our favorite events of the year, the Ball consisted of a sit-down dinner peppered with fundraising efforts and a walk-through of five floors of open studios filled with work by the Academy's talented students. Over 900 guests celebrated the Academy and artist Mickalene Thomas who was honored by Academy President David Kratz for her outstanding body of work. In her honor, the Academy created the Mickalene Thomas Scholarship



and during dinner, with the help of Sotheby's auctioneer Joe Dunning, the Academy raised \$91,000 for the scholarship in a spontaneous auction. In total, the evening raised over \$825,000 to support the Academy's scholarships and public programming.

Guests included Alain Bernard, Mary Boone, Will Cotton, Billy Crudup, KAWS, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Tschabalala Self, Cindy Sherman, Brooke Shields, Naomi Watts, Laurie Simmons, Bosco Sodi, Mickalene Thomas & Racquel Chevremont and Hank Willis Thomas.

As the night winded down, guests headed over Tribeca hotspot (and one of our favorite Italian restaurants) Tutto il Giorno, hosted by Academy patron Gabby Karan de Felice.





The Tribeca Ball was Baller

April 10, 2018 by Ben Diamond

Last night, the worlds of art and high society gathered for the New York Academy of Art's 22nd annual Tribeca Ball. "It's unlike anything else in New York," said Eileen Guggenheim, the Academy's chairwoman. "People are in artists' studios for half the night and meeting artists. It's very inspiring."

The "astronomy"-themed evening mixed the ethereal and the earthly. Upstairs, a harpist played as artists sketched four barely clothed models—three women, one man—in Greek garb. Downstairs, the smell of paint and charcoal wafted from the canvases of the Academy's artists. One piece in particular, by Angela China, received special attention: a parody of Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, with a nude Donald Trump, Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey and Harvey Weinstein in place of the original.

Of course, the evening is as exciting for artists as for donors. Academy president David Kratz said, "It's the greatest chance in the world for really high-profile artists to come see the work of emerging artists. And for a lot of the young artists, it's the first time people can start to collect their work—and they get to see a lot of their heroes." Heroes like the artists Julie Mehretu, Will Cotton, Alyssa Monks and the evening's honoree, Mickalene Thomas. Thomas, renowned for her sumptuous, richly colored portraits of African-American women, was celebrated over dinner with the creation of the Mickalene Thomas Scholarship.

"We are amazing followers of David Kratz and the Art Academy, and when we moved into our restaurant across the street, it was a perfect synergy" said Gabby Karan de Felice, attending along with her husband Gianpaolo and mother Donna. "Both my parents are artists, my mother being a designer and my father being a sculptor, and I had a lot of friends also who were students here. I wanted to get involved—it's all about embracing the community." After dinner, guests crossed the street to a raging afterparty at—where else?—Tutto Il Giorno, Gabby and Gianpaolo's restaurant.

Other guests included Alain Bernard, Mary Boone, Daniel Boulud, Zoe Buckman, Henry Buhl, Tom Cashin & Jay Johnson, Kristy Clark, Bob Colacello, Billy Crudup, Francesca DiMattio, Steven Gambrel, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Alexander Gilkes, Zani Gugelmann, Deborah Kass, KAWS, Julia Koch, Rachel Lehmann, Damian & Zoya Loeb, Nicole Miller, Julianne Moore, Ippolita Rostagno, Mark Ruffalo, Tschabalala Self, Cindy Sherman, Brooke Shields, Peggy Siegal, Bosco Sodi, Liz Swig, Naomi Watts, Jason Weinberg and Hank Willis Thomas.





Brooke Shields and Naomi Watts Talk Astrology at the Tribeca Ball

Donna Karan, Julianne Moore, KAWS, and more turned up to honor artist Mickalene Thomas

Written by **Ashley W. Simpson**

"Poetic Astronomy" was the theme French jeweler Van Cleef & Arpels assigned last night's Tribeca Ball, the New York Academy of Art's annual, star-studded fundraiser. As such, the suggested dress code was "celestial chic," and attendees relished the chance to play up the theme. Entering the fete, held at the school's historic 111 Franklin Street building, celebrities, paparazzi, and fashion and art world fixtures like Donna Karan, KAWS, Julianne Moore, Will Cotton, Van Cleef & Arpels president Alain Bernard, and more mingled with stilt walkers who, in ethereal, constellation-inspired costumes, looked like masquerading harlequins of the cosmos.

"Are you going to ask who I'm wearing?" asked benefit chair Naomi Watts. "Because I've forgotten," she laughed. Several people seemed eager to fish for the forgotten label, but one trusty publicist was on point and relayed that it was Attico. Given the theme, the conversation turned to Watts' star sign, which she did remember. "I'm into astrology until I'm not, you know?"

I'm a Libra, so I'm balanced, and unbalance bothers me. I also look at things from every angle," she said, her eyes widening. "It's exhausting." Chair of the board, Eileen Guggenheim, couldn't recall who she was wearing either. "It's nobody big," she said. "You can look." The pastel green, sequin-covered evening dress was by Pascal Millet. "Oh, that sounds French," she said. "I'm an Aries," she continued. "We're creative and courageous—an art school's a great place for that, right?"

Upon her arrival, the evening's honoree, Mickalene Thomas, was ushered toward the step-and-repeat just as Brooke Shields, wearing Sachin and Babi, exited. Shields actually matched a larger-than-life collage by Thomas that hung in the foyer, and stood beside it for another flurry of photos. "I love the Tribeca Ball, because it's so purely about the art of the students," she explained. "No matter what happens, it can never get bigger than that, and it can never be about anything other than them." When asked for her star sign, she replied, "Both of us are Gemini." She went on to perform both parts of a split personality-style argument. "You shut up!" she said looking one way, and then turned her iconic head the other. "No, you shut up!" Shields had braved the event with a crutch following recent surgery, and wasn't so stable on her feet. With no cordon around honoree artist Thomas' centerpiece collage that Shields complemented so well, and in need of a fixed thing on which to steady herself, her hand found the artwork first. "Oh no! I almost put my hand through it!" she exclaimed. The panic turned more playful. "Maybe they can charge more for it!"

That collage wasn't up for auction, but Thomas' work, displayed on the fifth floor, was. It raised \$91,000 for the newly established Mickalene Thomas Scholarship. Thomas and her wife both wore Comme des Garçons for the affair, and the artist expressed her excitement over the scholarship in her honor. She also explained that she prefers Eastern astrology to Western. "I follow Chinese astrology," she said. "I'm the Year of the Pig." Someone mentioned that they were the Year of the Dog. "Oh, Pigs and Dogs get along, ironically. Some of my best friends are dogs," she said, letting out a bright, full-bellied laugh. The cliché was lost on no one. Thomas' work is noted for its sociological discourse—race, gender, and sexuality play major roles in all her art. "Pigs are spontaneous, outgoing, generous, flamboyant—I know I'm wearing all black, but it comes out in lots of ways," she said, gesturing to the aforementioned collage. Informed of the Brooke Shields stumble, she said, "I hope it's not damaged!" That was followed by another laugh. "Actually, I do have a piece of Brooke Shields' hair. Brooke did a shoot and the hairstylist came to my studio afterwards, also to do a shoot. Brooke's hair was still in the brush, so I have it stuck on my wall." Perhaps more than just Brooke Shields' fingerprints will be appearing as part of a Mickalene Thomas collage soon, and like the theme of the dazzling evening, that would definitely be poetic.

Naomi Watts, Julianne Moore Attend New York Academy Of Arts Tribeca Ball With Van Cleef & Arpels

Hyla Ames Bauer , Contributor

The New York Academy of Arts' annual Tribeca Ball supports education and special programming at the prestigious school. The fundraising event was chaired by Gabby Karan de Felice, Jane Holzer, Stephanie Ingrassia, Mary-Kate Olsen and Naomi Watts. The event featured a five-floor exhibit depicting a journey through time with specially created artwork and interactive installations. The theme of the exhibit was inspired by Van Cleef & Arpels' Poetic Astronomy timepieces.

The event took place in the heart of Manhattan's TriBeCa neighborhood at 111 Franklin Street. Prominent guests included actors Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Billy Crudup, Brooke Shields and Paddle8 founder Alexander Gilkes. This year's gala was the ninth time that Van Cleef & Arpels has supported the fundraiser.

The Academy of Arts was "founded in 1982 by artists, scholars and patrons of the arts, including Andy Warhol, the New York Academy of Art is a graduate school and cultural institution that combines intensive technical training in the fine arts with active critical discourse," according to a statement from the school. "The Academy believes that rigorously trained artists are best able to realize their artistic vision. Academy students are taught traditional methods and techniques and encouraged to use these skills to make vital contemporary art. Through major exhibitions, a lively speaker series, and an ambitious educational program, the Academy serves as a creative and intellectual center for all artists dedicated to highly skilled, conceptually aware figurative and representational art."

Van Cleef & Arpels specializes in unusual watch complications and is well-known for its "poetic" complications. The watches "associate watchmaking prowess with craft skills to transform each dial into an enchanting spectacle," according to the brand. "This unique combination of savoir faire and creativity creates moments of emotion that form an integral part of Van Cleef & Arpels' imagination. This poetic interpretation of Time, a true signature of the Maison, is translated visually by the delicacy of an original design that tells a story. The Maison's creativity is fueled by the historic sources of inspiration dear to its heart; from the graceful femininity of Fairies and Ballerinas, to the founding theme of Love stories, the whimsical grace of Enchanting Nature and the mysteries of Poetic Astronomy."





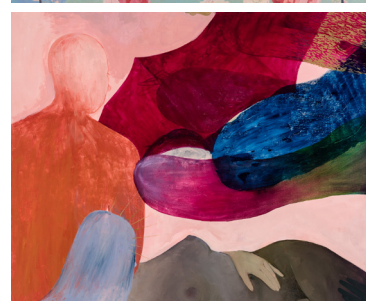
‘Twas A Star Studded Night At The 2018 Tribeca Ball

By Christie Grimm April 10, 2018

And just like that, it's that magic time of year again - the downtown social event of the season, The Tribeca Ball, is upon us. The fanciest open house around, the evening features floors upon floors of festivities, as attendees like Mary-Kate Olsen, Naomi Watts, Brooke Shields, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Donna Karan and more weave their way in and out of studio spaces displaying the remarkable works of the New York Academy of Art's students. With their projects and pieces sold off to the haute crowd, proceeds from the evening go to support scholarships for the school's talented artists and public programs.

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An All-Women Art Show Honors Acclaimed Artist Mickalene Thomas

By Mary Dellas April 9, 2018

Tonight the New York Academy of Art will kick off spring gala season at its 23rd annual Tribeca Ball, honoring the acclaimed artist Mickalene Thomas. The evening will feature a one-night-only all-women exhibition devoted to explorations of female sexuality.

Sponsored by Van Cleef and Arpels, each year the Tribeca Ball's co-chairs invite notable names in art, fashion, and the media to the Academy for a star-studded celebration of a single artist. This evening, event co-chairs Naomi Watts, Mary-Kate Olsen, Gabby Karan de Felice, Jane Holzer, and Stephanie Ingrassia will honor Thomas with Julianne Moore, Donna Karan, Kehinde Wiley, Mark Ruffalo, and more celebrity names on the guest list.

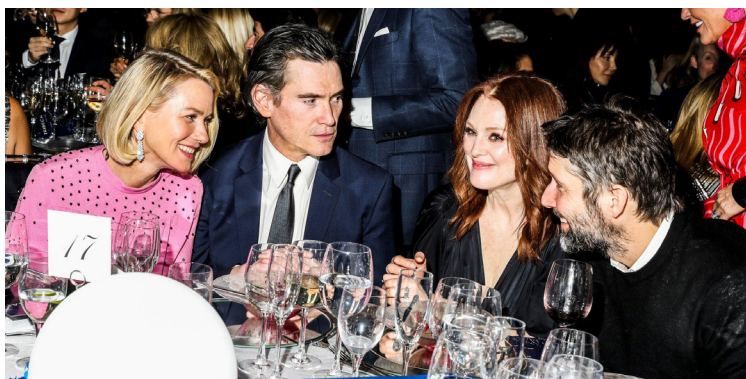
Titled "Electric Palace," the exhibition features work by Thomas and ten other women artists, including Zanele Muholi, Catherine Howe, and Hilary Harkness. Each artist examines different aspects of female sexuality.

The show centers on two of Thomas's collages, one of which is pictured above. Both feature African-American women gazing from her canvas. "The theme of female sexuality was inspired by Mickalene Thomas," the exhibition's curator, Renee Bovenzi, told the Cut. "Her works seduce the viewer to enter a complex and emotional relationship with the subject."

Thomas is best known for her rhinestone-embellished paintings, portraits, and collages of African-American women, and she also produces videos and installations. She often explores beauty and sexuality through a historical and pop-cultural lens. Her work appears in the permanent collections of every major contemporary art museum, from MoMA to the Guggenheim and Brooklyn museums. Funds raised from tonight's Tribeca Ball will go toward both the Academy and a new Mickalene Thomas Artist Scholarship, which will provide financial aid to students at the New York Academy of Art. See a preview of works in "Electric Palace" below.

The New York Academy of Art held its annual Tribeca Ball on April 9.

Krista Schlueter for The New York Times



The New York Academy of Art Hosted Its Annual Tribeca Ball

By The Editors Apr 10, 2018

Scenes from the celebrity-filled evening, which was presented by Van Cleef & Arpels.

Collectors used to the wide aisles of international art fairs could be forgiven for feeling a bit cramped on the evening of April 9, when the New York Academy of Art hosted its annual Tribeca Ball, presented by Van Cleef & Arpels. After all, before guests sat down to dinner they were given the opportunity to visit the Lilliputian studios of the school's very talented students, talk to the artists themselves, and, in some cases, buy work directly off the wall.

Things spread out when the group made its way to dinner, where NYAA president David Kratz presented the night's guest of honor, artist Mickalene Thomas (above), with an honorary degree from the school. Before a crowd including Alain Bernard, Brooke Shields, Marilyn Minter, Julie Mehretu, and Billy Crudup tucked into a dinner by Daniel Boulud, a rousing auction was held to raise money for scholarships, and after dessert was cleared away the revelers went across the street to Tutto il Giorno, where an after party went until what was surely far too late on a school night.





Artist Mickalene Thomas Championed Diversity at This Year's Tribeca Ball

April 10, 2018 by Todd Plummer

The New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball is a favorite fundraiser among the city's art-world insiders, and this year's 25th annual event was no exception. In fact, the wait list for tickets was so long that the Academy set up a satellite dinner location across the street at Gabby Karan de Felice's restaurant, Tutto Il Giorno.

In essence, the Tribeca Ball is simple in format: cocktail-hour mingling in the Academy's student studios upstairs, followed by dinner downstairs. But thanks to underwriting and creative direction from Van Cleef & Arpels, the Academy's Franklin Street building transformed into a work of "Poetic Astronomy"—complete with zodiac-inspired lighting, tarot card readers, and celestial-clad stilt walkers and nude models. Every room was transformed, providing ample nooks and crannies for eager guests to explore.

The crowd included Brooke Shields (who, despite being on crutches due to a recent surgery, was determined not to miss the party), Academy chairwoman Eileen Guggenheim, artist Zoe Buckman, philanthropist Sarah Arison, art consultant Anne Huntington, and a host of exuberant art lovers, almost all of whom have attended the event in previous years. "I always come to this party

with the intention of visiting every student's studio, but never do," Arison told us. Not that anyone could blame her—five floors filled with talented students is a lot of ground to cover.

One of the liveliest tables at dinner included Naomi Watts and boyfriend Billy Crudup, Julianne Moore, and Mark and Sunrise Ruffalo. "This room is lit up with stars tonight," said the Academy's president, David Kratz, during his remarks, "but it is especially lit up with art stars. Especially female ones."

He was right—Marilyn Minter and Cindy Sherman were in attendance, but it was honoree Mickalene Thomas who brought the room to a standing ovation during her speech. It was powerful to hear Thomas talk about her experience as a queer woman of color in art: "Representation is important. Figurative art is important. You can't believe in yourself if you can't see yourself in images. That's why I make what I make. It's about me waiting to see myself and claim spaces that have been void for so long. Present images so that when little girls go to museums they can look up and see themselves. I am here. I am Mickalene Thomas."



Naomi Watts, Brooke Shields Support Emerging Artists at the 2018 Tribeca Ball

Through the ball, the New York Academy of Art raised over \$825,000 to benefit its scholarships and public programing.

By Alexa Tietjen on April 10, 2018

"I was trying to do the math. It's been, what, five years? When I was the honorary muse — the honorary nude," said Brooke Shields.

The actress and model, who walked with a cane due to a recent surgery, was referring to the time she served as the official muse for the New York Academy of Art's 2014 Take Home a Nude fall auction. Shields was the surprise guest model that year, though she didn't exactly pose nude — she wore a camisole.

Shields joined Naomi Watts, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Donna Karan, Gabby Karan de Felice, David Kratz and more for the New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball honoring Mickalene Thomas on Monday night. Presented by Van Cleef & Arpels, the ball raised over \$825,000 to support the Academy's scholarships and public programming.

In addition to the opportunity to browse works by the school's emerging artists, the fete had tarot card readers on hand to tell guests their fortunes. Watts, however, was not interested.

"I didn't even see that. No, I don't need that though," she said. "You've got to be in the right frame of mind for that, I think."

The actress and Academy board member had just finished browsing the art on display during the cocktail hour and, like the savvy art collector she is, had taken note of what she was hoping to purchase the following day.

"A lot of my paintings that I own come from this very event," she shared. "It's hard to keep track of everyone's names, but I've taken a few photographs and then I follow up tomorrow. I think that's the best way because there's just too much. I don't like stopping to talk too much 'cause I want to see and the good things go quickly."

Thomas, the night's attraction, called being honored by the Academy "one of the greatest achievements. I think there's a lot of support that comes to this school and what I'm most excited about is that there's an award that's gonna be given to one or two of the students in my name," she added. "As a painter, to have a scholarship in your name — you can't ask for anything more than that. That's a great accomplishment."





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