Call of the Wild

PRESS DECK

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART
Brooke Shields Talks Art Southampton, Where She Hangs Out East & Why She Won’t Stop Acting Anytime Soon

By R. Couri Hay | July 1, 2016

Brooke Shields is no stranger to the Hamptons, where she has a home with her husband and their two daughters: “We just realized how happy it made us and what a great respite it was from the craziness of our lives in New York City.”

Brooke Shields—who is an actress, model, author, original Calvin Klein jeans ingenue, and onetime Tom Cruise nemesis—is expanding her repertoire to the visual arts. The Princeton grad has curated an exhibit for the New York Academy of Art titled “Call of the Wild.” Featuring more than 60 paintings and sculptures inspired by nature and the animal kingdom by alumni of the Academy (of which Shields is a board member), it will be shown at this year’s edition of the art fair Art Southampton, running from July 7 through 11.

The theme seems apt, as the school’s MFA program has a long history of working with human models as well as exotic animals brought in by handlers; the Academy also partners each year with the Westminster Kennel Club to run its art competition, with the winning work adorning the club’s annual postcard and official promotional poster.

“What I love about the school is that their focus is on traditional training in painting, drawing, and sculpture, so they’re all highly skilled artists,” says Shields. “It’s like learning a language and making sure that the fundamentals and grammar are instilled.”

Shields has another tie to the school, established in 1982: Among the Academy’s founders was Andy Warhol, a friend of Shields beginning when she was a teen model. “What I think Andy would be proud of, probably even more so than just what the school produces, is the supportive nature of it,” she says. “It’s a rigorous training course, but the support that the artists have for one another—I think he would have loved that because it’s very genuine. It’s not a cutthroat environment.”

On this particular afternoon, Shields is traveling to the Hamptons, where she and her husband, Chris Henchy, have a home. “We just realized how happy it made us and what a great respite it was from the craziness of our lives in New York City,” she says. They share the East End residence with their two daughters, ages 10 and 13. “We have a dog now, and whenever I take the dog on the beach, it is literally one of the most peaceful times that I have.”

The trip out East comes at a perfect time: Shields just finished filming Daisy Winters in Georgia, which she squeezed in between shooting several Dearly Depotted made-for-TV movies in Ontario for the Hallmark Channel. For the latter project, a Murder She Wrote-style series based on the Flower Shop Mystery books by Kate Collins, Shields plays a big-city lawyer who moves back to her hometown to open a flower shop after the death of her husband. “It’s lighthearted comedy,” says the actress, who is also an executive producer of the films.

And in Daisy Winters, Shields stars alongside a girl who reminds her of herself when she started in the business. “I love the idea that I have this longevity,” she says, “because I do think in this industry there is something to be said for still being around. I don’t know about relevancy per se, but I definitely am stubborn enough to be in the game still.” Art Southampton runs July 7–11 at 60 Millstone Road, Bridgehampton.
What to Look for at This Year’s Art Southampton

By Taylor Dafoe | July 06, 2016

The fifth edition of Art Southampton opens this Thursday, July 7, at Nova’s Ark Project, in Bridgehampton, New York, where it will run through Monday, July 11.

Presented by Art Miami, the annual modern and contemporary art fair is a major New York City-adjacent arts event in an otherwise dead summer season. The Art Miami group, owned by Florida-based art fair magnate Nick Korniloff, puts on nine events annually, including Art Miami, Art New York at Pier 94, and the newly-announced Palm Beach Modern and Contemporary Fair.

Art Southampton kicks off with a VIP preview party, which will benefit both the Parrish Art Museum and the Southampton Hospital. Among other fair highlights are the New York Academy of Art’s exhibition “Call of the Wild,” co-curated by model and actress Brooke Shields, who joined the NYAA Board of Trustees last month; a contemporary photography exhibition titled “Irreconcilable Images,” introduced by “Shark Tank” host Kevin O’Leary; and the second installment of actor Adrien Brody’s “Hooked” series of paintings.

This year’s fair will feature more than 70 galleries from nine countries worldwide. The 2015 edition attracted more than 21,000 visitors, the largest number to date. Officials expect attendance this year to be similar.

Here is the full list of this year’s participating galleries:

Brooke Shields has been nurturing her artistic side. For the fifth installment of the Art Southampton contemporary and modern art fair, the actress curated an exhibition along with New York Academy of Art president David Kratz. “Call of the Wild,” opening Thursday in Bridgehampton, N.Y., features artwork by the academy’s various alumni.

Shields has sat on the academy’s board for several years and was nudged into curating a show with Kratz, whom she originally met while attending the organization’s annual “Take Home a Nude” fund-raiser. “It was like I had known him my whole life,” Shields recalls of their introduction. “I feel like we’re brother and sister. And he just opened up a whole new world and kept asking me to be a part of it.”

Without studying fine arts officially, Shields was initially hesitant about taking on curatorial duties. “I don’t have any degree or art history background, so I was very hesitant to be anything other than a spectator,” she admitted. “And David was just like, ‘don’t underestimate yourself,’” she continued. “He gave me the confidence to make art less prohibited. When he said, ‘Do you want to curate a show?’ I was like, ‘I can’t, I don’t know anything.’ And he said ‘You have an opinion; you have an aesthetic.’”

For the theme of this year’s show, Shields and Kratz looked for artwork that offered an interpretation of the natural world or animal kingdom. “It was a very broad topic but almost every artist had some identification with it,” Shields noted.

They pared the submission pool while working long distance — Kratz in New York, Shields in Savannah, Ga. “We didn’t get to have that time where you’re just in the room together going over all of the art in person,” Shields explained. “So we had to do it electronically for a while, and then we finally came together and we were surprised at how many of the same selects [we had] and how we did not disagree. And how if one of us was on the fence about something, the other one made a case for it — for or against — and then the select process just kept getting pruned,” she continued. “It’s a lengthy process to go through the submissions and realize what your first selects are and what you go back to and vacillate on. What was shocking to me is I thought: ‘Oh my god, I’m not going to like something and that’s going to somehow discredit it because of my style.’ And over the course of this process, I realized it has nothing to do with that. Because I was able to truly appreciate something that I would never hang on my wall.”

With her inaugural show ready to be unveiled, Shields is excited about future opportunities to contribute to the curatorial process and further her involvement with the New York Academy of Art. “I want to up my game this summer — I want to learn more,” she said. “My taste has never been what is the most valuable. You know, I love some things that are very valuable and there are artists who do whatever and it’s expensive, and then there’s this whole other contingency of art that I just love — I love seeing it and I love watching it mature,” she continued. “My industry is all about comparing yourself to someone else, and I’m sure that if you’re an artist in the art world that is the case. But what’s lovely to see is this environment at the academy is truly a community where they support each other and thrive on their differences.”

The show runs through July 11 at Nova’s Ark Project in Bridgehampton.
ART CROWD HEADS TO THE HAMPTONS FOR ART SOUTHAMPTON

Actress Brooke Shields co-organises show of wildlife-themed art alongside art fair

by Dan Duray  |  7 July 2016

Each summer weekend, New York’s elite turn the Upper East Side into a ghost town as they migrate east to the vacation towns a few hours into Long Island that comprise the Hamptons. Art Southampton, the premier fair serving that demographic in those months, kicks off its fifth edition with 70 galleries and a number of high-profile attractions, among them an exhibition co-curated by New York Academy of Art (NYAA) president David Kratz and the actress Brooke Shields. The fair, which is in the grounds of Bridgehampton’s Nova’s Ark Project, opens today (7 July) and runs until 11 July. Shields’s contribution represents a longstanding relationship the fair has had with the NYAA, and will include more than 30 paintings, prints and sculptures by the college alumni on the animal kingdom (Call of the Wild). And she isn’t the only celebrity attraction. The actor Adrien Brody, star of The Pianist, will show another installment of his Hooked series, for which he plastered posters around Manhattan during Frieze New York, while the Shark Tank host Kevin O’Leary will present his own photography offerings.

This year’s Art Southampton includes 70 galleries, fewer than last year’s edition, which featured more than 90. The director Nick Korniloff—founder of Art Miami, which presents Art Southampton — said this edition could have had as many galleries but “we turned away a lot because they didn’t meet the criteria or quality level we were looking for.” Most dealers come from the US, with a handful from Europe and Asia, including Cynthia Corbett gallery in London, Rademakers Gallery in Amsterdam and iPreciation from Singapore.

Korniloff cited the current performance of the stock market, the impending US election, and Brexit as factors affecting the art market, though pointed out that anecdotally he had noticed more people staying in the Hamptons rather than travelling to Europe this year.

“The balance of the work is much more in tune with what is being created today in the contemporary market, by younger, living artists,” Korniloff says. “The balance of secondary market and primary is pretty much even whereas in the past it’s been a little more heavily weighted on secondary market material. There’s still great representation by Hamptons artists,” he adds, referring to artists such as Willem de Kooning and Eric Fischl who have lived and worked in the area.
Suddenly Curator: Brooke Shields on Organizing Her First Exhibition
By John Chiaverina Posted 07/07/16 11:33 am

Today marks the opening of “Call of the Wild,” a new group exhibition organized by the New York Academy of Art’s president, David Kratz, in collaboration with the actress (and Academy board member) Brooke Shields, at Art Southampton in Bridgehampton, New York.

Shields, whose extensive filmography includes the legendary Louis Malle film Pretty Baby and the sitcom Suddenly Susan, is making her debut as a curator with this show. Its title can be taken pretty literally. The exhibition hinges on the concept of “animals’ relation to the animal kingdom, our relation, how we see them, how we view them, how we witness,” Shields told me yesterday over the phone. “We just threw that out as the topic, and then all of the Academy artists submitted, and then the process of selection started.”

Participating artists in this painting-and-critter-heavy exhibition include Dina Brodsky, Loretta Mae Hirsch, and Elliot Purse. One piece that tickled my Wisconsin heart was Midwest Periphery I, a 2016 oil on panel of a cow by Nicolas V. Sanchez. Shields told me that the selection process was long but rewarding. One new experience was “finding the merit in art that you might not necessarily consider your taste,” she said. “Which was amazing to me, because it was so freeing to me to able to look at a piece of art and say, ‘You know what, I wouldn’t want to live with this, but I absolutely appreciate the technique or the execution or the subject matter.’”

Shields’s initial history with the New York Academy dates back to attending an event and meeting the artist Will Cotton, who had created a commissioned portrait of Shields’s daughter as a tenth anniversary gift from her husband. From there, she started regularly attending Academy events, and in time, Kratz asked Shields to be on the board. “I said, I don’t have any schooling in this, I didn’t graduate from a primarily art-driven institution,” Shields said, adding that Kratz told her, “We need actual people who are artists in a field, not just people on our board who are the money people.” Shields told me that she couldn’t say no.

For her first go at curation, the actress seemed pleased with the results. “It’s always fun when you branch out and do something that you’ve never done before and realize that, you know, you can do it. I’m by no means an expert, but I’ve learned a lot. And it feels good to not feel like I’m a fish out of water.” When asked about a possible continuation of her curatorial career, Shields didn’t shut the door on the idea. “If I’m asked, I would absolutely love it,” she told me. “I really enjoyed the process, I’m sure I got lucky. I’m sure it’s not always this enjoyable.”

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Brooke Shields Breaks Into the Art Business, Plus a Pop-Up
The model and actress takes her turn as a ‘special guest curator’ and a taste of Argentina at Casa Cruz
By Marshall Heyman, July 7, 2016 7:11 p.m. ET

In the age of being a multi-hyphenates, Lionel Richie has a tabletop line; Halle Berry consults on lingerie; Rita Wilson sings cabaret.

And now, model-actress-Broadway star-mom Brooke Shields can another descriptor to the list: She is the “special guest curator” for an exhibition the New York Academy of Art is hosting at its booth at the Art Southampton Fair this weekend.

The show, entitled “Call of the Wild,” features animal- and nature-themed artwork from academy alumni. Among the pieces: a ballpoint on paper kookaburra by Dina Brodsky; a color print beaver, under acrylic glass, by Alexandra Finkelchtein; oil egrets on canvas by Angela Gram; a series of cow paintings by Nicolas V. Sanchez, and a raccoon made from wood, wire, newspaper, tape, glue and found objects by Will Kurtz.

Ms. Shields joined the board of the New York Academy a year ago, after attending many of the institution’s events. She was introduced to the organization by the artist Will Cotton. He had painted a portrait of her daughters, a gift from Ms. Shields’s husband, in which one daughter “had a meringue headband and the other had a cupcake headband,” she said.

“Basically it was love at first sight with David Kratz,” the Academy’s president, said Ms. Shields. “It was as if we’d been friends forever.”

Mr. Kratz didn’t even ask Ms. Shields if she’d be involved in the show.

“He just said, ‘You’re going to curate a show with me,’” she explained. “I was hesitant at first. I hadn’t studied figurative art in any way at college. I was basically insecure about it.”

Mr. Kratz assured Ms. Shields that she’d been at enough academy events, and they’d had plenty of conversations about art and methodologies.

“He said, ‘try it, just try it,’” Ms. Shields continued. “And I had the best time.”

Ms. Shields said that selecting the artwork took a few weeks.

“You have a knee-jerk reaction and then you step away from it and let it sit with you,” she explained. “Just because I may not want it on my own wall, there are still merits to the actual work. I can still appreciate pieces of art that I don’t necessarily want to wake up to.”

Though she will be at a VIP opening and check in periodically to see how the booth is selling over the weekend, Ms. Shields doesn’t expect to bring any pieces home.

“At this point, my husband is saying, ‘We have no more room, please don’t buy anything more,’” she said.

As important as it is to diversify your work skills these days, it’s just as important to spread your wings geographically.
Brooke Shields, Newly Minted Curator, Shares Her Culture Obsessions
By Stephanie Eckardt July 10, 2016 8:00 am

This week, Brooke Shields teamed up with the New York Academy of Arts’s David Kratz to curate “Call of the Wild,” an animal kingdom-focused exhibit of Academy graduates now up from now until Monday at Nova’s Ark Project as part of Art Southampton. Get to know the art world’s latest addition through her culture diet, here.

First thing you read in the morning:
The New York Times Arts section.

Books on your bedside table right now:
And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini and The Nest by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney.

The TV shows keeping you up at night:
“Better Call Saul” and “I’ll Have What Phil’s Having.”

Last movie you saw in theaters: Finding Dory.

Last thing you saw at the theater: “Hamilton.”

Last piece of art you bought, or ogled:
A lovely oil on canvas piece from the “Water|Bodies” exhibit in Southampton by Elisabeth McBrien.

Last museum exhibition that you loved:
“Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs” at MoMA.

Release you’re most eagerly anticipating:
Amor Towles’s A Gentleman in Moscow.

Summer travel destination:
Thailand, and my backyard in Southampton.

What you’ve been most excited to wear this summer:
My Isabel Marant peasant dress.

Last song you had on repeat: “Count to Ten” by Tina Dico.

Last concert you saw live: Sting.

How you get your news right now:
The New York Times, my Twitter feed, and CNN.

Favorite accounts to follow:
Architectural Digest; New York Academy of Art; and Death, Sex & Money.

Last thing you do before you go to bed: Kiss my girls.
Brooke Shields Makes Curatorial Debut and More at Art Southampton
Brooke Shields made her curatorial debut with the New York Academy of Art.

Eileen Kinsella, July 8, 2016

Light rain was already falling as lines to get into ArtSouthampton’s VIP preview began to snake through Nova’s Ark Project—the sprawling sculpture garden in Bridgehampton where the bespoke tent was put up this year.

Inside, the fair was buzzing with energy in the opening hour. As usual, locals turned out en masse for the preview. The art on view reflected an adventurous mix of mostly new and contemporary work, with a healthy dose of historic blue chip works mixed in.

Related: Is Market Art + Design the ‘Brooklyn’ of Hampton Art Fairs?

A show curated in part by Brooke Shields helped add a dash of celebrity cachet and drew curious onlookers to the booth. In her curatorial debut, Shields worked with New York Academy of Art president David Kratz on the institution’s booth. The chosen theme, “Call of the Wild,” presented about 30 paintings, prints and sculptures by alumni of the academy. All were for sale.

Shields and Kratz were both on hand in the booth and chatted enthusiastically with artnet News about how the collaborative curation effort took shape. While Shields joked that she was reluctant in her first outing as a curator and that Kratz basically “told” her she was on board, Kratz praised her “incredible eye” and said in his opinion, the show was a case of “1 + 1 =3”.

Shields was engaging, sharing stories about her past involvement in the art world—she talked about meeting Andy Warhol as a child—and said both she and her daughters have sat for portraits by Will Cotton. Nonetheless, she added, the experience of curating works for the show—albeit initially intimidating—marked a new and valuable experience.

Meanwhile, photographs made by Kevin O’Leary, of “Shark Tank” fame were displayed at East Hampton’s Gallery Valentine, with proceeds earmarked for the Perry J. Cohen Foundation, founded in memory of Perry Cohen, the son of art fair founder Nick Korniloff and his wife Pamela Cohen, who was lost at sea a year ago.

Miami gallerist Fredric Snitzer, a first time exhibitor who was showing work including pieces by gallery star Hernan Bas, told artnet News he was enthusiastic about having a captive Hamptons audience: “Collectors come here in the summer, and they’re bored,” he joked. He also noted numerous art events that make this a lively, must-see weekend, including the Parrish Art Museum gala on Saturday.

Added Snitzer: “In the old days, art fairs were where you brought what you couldn’t sell. Now you hold back the special things for fairs.”

Casterline Goodman Gallery, which operates spaces in Aspen and East Hampton, had an arresting selection of unique works by Ed Ruscha in which the artist used unusual materials like carrot juice or blueberries to stain and decorate works on paper.

Director Robert Casterline explained to artnet News that there is a healthy overlap of clients between the gallery’s two locations, and that it seeks to present works it believes in as solid secondary market investment material.

Another eye-catching booth, situated near the entrance of the fair, was that of London gallery Shine Artists, which included work by Italian born painter Matteo Massagrande, whose interior paintings of beautifully dilapidated interiors with the sea in the background reflect his travels between Northern Italy and Hungary, and depict both real and imagined scenarios.

London’s Skipwiths Gallery showed work by Hyojin Park, Kim Jae Il, and Kwang Young Chun that reflected the three Korean artists’ training as sculptors. Gallery spokesperson Heejin No told artnet News the gallery was excited to show in the US for the first time—particularly given that this is summer in the Hamptons—and wanted to keep it simple, so limited the booth to three artists.

New international dealers like Skipwiths speak to the growing international profile of the seasonal Hamptons art scene. “There is a clear indication that the Hamptons is becoming less and less a regional market and is developing into a global destination in its own right as the quality of the galleries and fairs and local institutions consistently improves,” said Jeff Lincoln, who currently has a Pop Art show at his new gallery, Collective, located in a restored 19th-century power station in Southampton.

The Art Southampton slow “illustrates this upward trend as it opened tonight with both local and galleries from around the world exhibiting great quality work and consequently attracting quality collectors,” he added.