



TRIBECA BALL 2019



PRESS COVERAGE



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Brooke Shields, Gus Kenworthy and Donald Trump Jr. on the Gala Circuit

The New York Academy of Art, Jeffrey Fashion Cares, the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, and Ramapo for Children held benefits last week.

By Denny Lee April 12, 2019





A Great KAWS: The Artist Is Honored at the Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball

April 13, 2019 11:13 AM
by Lilah Ramzi

"You're probably not going to be surprised when you hear that the school doesn't normally look like this," said New York Academy of Art president David Kratz, a jovial character who stands at odds with the exacting, no-nonsense-type one might expect to find at the helm of one of the city's greatest art schools. He continued, "we don't normally dress like this, or eat like this, or drink this kind of wine. Not that I wouldn't be happy to, but we do it once a year."

Kratz was addressing an audience seated on the ground floor of the Academy, which was strung with a zig-zag of twinkly lights, filled with tables festooned with springy floral arrangements, on which a meal of perfect white asparagus and poached Bass filets, prepared by chef extraordinaire Daniel Boulud, was served. The room was populated with an ideal mix of recognizable faces and behind-the-scenes—Swizz Beatz, Helena Christensen, Coco Rocha, Brooke Shields, and Naomi Watts added a bit of glamour to tables filled with philanthropists and patrons of the school. And, of course, the art world was well-represented with David Salle, Will Cotton, Lee Quinones, and Paul Kasmin in attendance.

The purpose of the evening was twofold: to celebrate Brian Donnelly, a.k.a KAWS, a.k.a the man behind the 115-foot-long, inflatable Mickey Mouse with X-ed out eyes that bobbed in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor last month, kicking off the city's buzzy Basel fair. And secondly, to support those KAWS-to-be, students of the Academy whose works were on display in the galleries that occupy the upper floors of the building.

The Tribeca Ball started early at 6:30 p.m., welcoming guests to wander through the facilities and meet the promising student artists whose works were for sale. The displays ranged from academically masterful floral still lifes to thought-provoking paintings depicting iPhone screens illuminated with nudes. "I hope to take the negative and immoral connotations away from the images," explained the artist, Meg Rossetti.

The preview was just the right level of crowded with plenty of amusement. Cocktail servers were replaced with carnivalesque creatures, heavily sequined stilt-walkers who cradled bottles of Bollinger Champagne ready to pour into the empty flutes of passersby. The art crawl culminated with a glitzy exhibition of Van Cleef & Arpels jewelry, the evening's sponsor. Shields could be seen snapping pictures of her favorite pieces.

Later on at dinner, Kratz brought the man of honor to the podium, jokingly pointing out that, “He went to art school and won’t say the name, but the initials are S.V.A.” No matter, Kratz would present KAWS with his honorary doctorate degree from the Academy. Donnelly, a man of few words, came up to give a blink-and-you-missed-it acceptance speech. And then it was onto Paddle8’s Alexander Gilkes to auction off a Kaws painting and a Van Cleef necklace, raising a total of \$70,000 for the students of the Academy—the entire evening’s fundraising brought the number up to an even lovelier \$850,000.

The night was best summed up by Kratz when he said, “Thank you all, this is for a great KAWS—pun intended.”





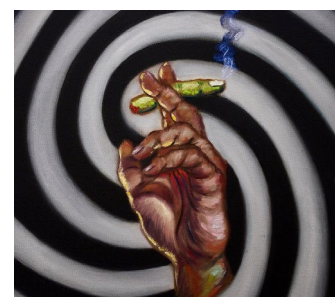
8 Art Pieces To Buy Before Naomi Watts & Julianne Moore Do At The Tribeca Ball

by Christie Grimm · April 3, 2019

Over the years, the New York Academy of Art's annual Tribeca Ball has become a celebration of its young emerging art students. And a fabulous place to creep on the art interests of the academy's famous patrons. After all, how else would we get a glimpse into the collection of Liev Schreiber or the walls of Brooke Shields?

Prior to this year's festivities on April 8th, a preview sale of the student works has been created with Paddle8, allowing those who may not be attending the event the chance to stick it to Julianne Moore and grab that perfect piece of artwork before she has the chance to put in her bid.

Click through for a look at some of our favorite pieces, and be sure to scoop up what you love before it's gone!





KAWS Honored at New York Academy of Art's Tribeca Ball

April 9, 2019 by Kristina Adduci

The night of Monday, April 8, 2019, 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 to celebrate the 24th annual Tribeca Ball. Presented by French luxury brand Van Cleef & Arpels, the evening honored Brian Donnelly, aka KAWS, who has had a very busy April.

Guest were invited to walk through five floors of over 100 open art studios while sipping on Champagne Bollinger alongside interactive installations, live art-making demonstrations and roaming stilt walkers, musicians and fortune tellers. In the spirit of Jacques Arpels' motto, "To be lucky you have to believe in luck," the décor for the evening was inspired by the iconic clover motif of Van Cleef & Arpels' Alhambra collection which has been celebrating luck for over half a century.





The evening culminated with a sit-down dinner by chef Daniel Boulud and an auction powered by Paddle8. Overall, the evening raised over \$850,000 to support the Academy's scholarships and public programming. Guests included Swizz Beatz, Alain Bernard, Helena Christensen, Will Cotton, Donna Karan, Gabby Karan de Felice & Gianpaolo de Felice, Liev Schreiber, Brooke Shields, Stefano Tonchi, and Naomi Watts.





PARTYING FOR A GOOD KAWS AT THE TRIBECA BALL

KAT HERRIMAN

04.09.2019

Every year, the New York Academy of Art and Van Cleef & Arpels celebrate a leader from their community at the institution's annual Tribeca Ball. This year, the honoree was none other than the monosyllabic pop icon, KAWS, who not only has made an impact through his own aesthetic practice but through his visionary collecting habits, which have championed both young and outsider artists. As per usual, the artist's presence attracted a starry, well-heeled crowd including Brook Shields, Naomi Watts, Swizz Beatz, Coco Rocha and Donna Karan among others.



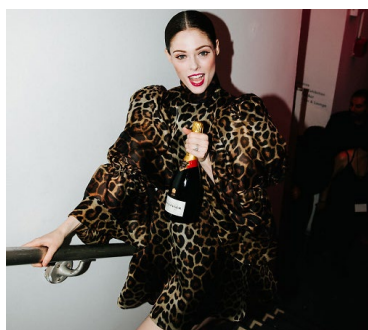


Art Gets Wild At The 2019 Tribeca Ball

by *Guest of A Guest* · April 9, 2019

Forget the typical art party scene. At the New York Academy of Art's 24th Annual Tribeca Ball, drag queens, stilt walkers, and body-painted performers kept the Champagne Bollinger pouring into the cups of Liev Schreiber, Coco Rocha, Naomi Watts, and Brooke Shields while they browsed contemporary art pieces which included painted renditions of sexts, trippy portraits, and even a smoking fish.

Produced in partnership with Van Cleef & Arpels, this year's event honoring street artist KAWS was as star-studded as ever, though you've never seen such a slow parade of glamorous people clacking down stairs, holding onto the railings for dear life. How there's never been a socialite casualty at these parties, I'll never know. But they sure do keep coming back.



What Happened at the 2019 Tribeca Ball?

By The Editors Apr 9, 2019

Art lovers including Brooke Shields and Naomi Watts raised \$850,000.

On April 8, the students at the New York Academy of Art welcomed a very distinguished group of visitors. In honor of the 24th annual Tribeca Ball, presented by Van Cleef & Arpels to benefit the Academy, guests including Helena Christensen, Naomi Watts, Helen King, Swizz Beats, Will Cotton, Alexander Gilkes, and more made their way to the historic Franklin Street building to visit more than 100 open artist studios and honor the artist KAWS. After their tour, guests enjoyed a dinner by Daniel Boulud and a live auction before adjourning to the nearby restaurant Tutto il Giorno for an afterparty. The evening raised more than \$850,000 to support the Academy's educational and public programming.





Kaws for a Cause

The New York Academy of Art honored artist Brian Donnelly, aka Kaws, at its annual Tribeca Ball

By Kristen Tauer on April 9, 2019

The crowded cocktail hour at the New York Academy of Arts' Tribeca Ball was like a giant game of "Where's Waldo?" come to life. But instead of Waldo, the man to find was the low-key artist Kaws, aka Brian Donnelly, wearing his signature cap. The academy's five floors were packed with art — all for sale, to benefit the school — glittering stilt walkers, a contortionist, a harpist, palm reader, a Sousaphonist, and activations by event sponsor Van Cleef & Arpels. There was Naomi Watts, Brooke Shields, Liev Schreiber, Donna Karan, and more. There was much to distract, but Donnelly, the event's honoree, was weaving between the micro studio spaces chatting with the artists.

"It's just such a talent pool in one place," said Donnelly, removing his thick-frame glasses. "It's really hard to digest in an atmosphere like this, but at least you can get samplings and take names and come back and learn more."

The artist has had an amazing few weeks, with the debut of a public sculpture in Hong Kong and the recent sale of one of his works at auction for a record \$14.7 million. Academy president David Kratz bestowed an honorary degree upon Donnelly during dinner, and also revealed the creation of a Kaws Scholarship fund for the school. What's next for the popular Brooklyn, N.Y.-based artist?

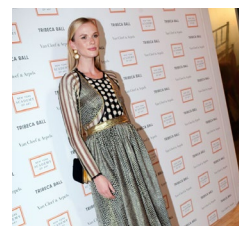
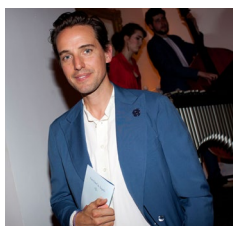
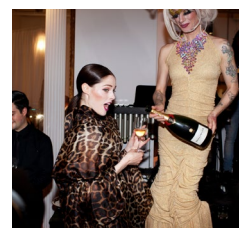
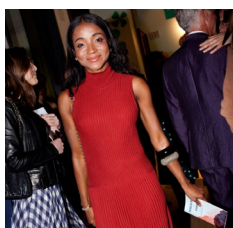
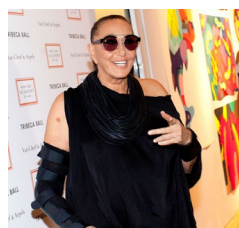
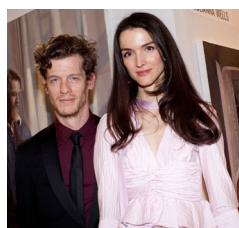
"A few things," said Donnelly, before continuing on to meet more artists. "In Detroit next month I have a show at MOCAD [Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit]. So I go there at

the end of the month to paint a wall, and then I go back for the opening."

Nearby, another man better known by a moniker was handing over his payment info. Kevin O'Leary — Mr. Wonderful — and his wife Linda had already found two pieces to buy. "I found a really interesting artist with a really interesting image of perhaps her grandmother's legs," he said of one of his new acquisitions. "We love this event, because there's some really great raw talent here. We're always buyers, we just buy what we like, what catches your eye, and that's it," he added. "You really just have to go with your gut on this. You never know what's going to happen."

Event chair Swizz Beatz, a friend and supporter of Kaws and emerging artists, arrived just before dinner, having come from the Bronx Museum's gala uptown.

"Anything that has the words 'New York' and 'art' is golden," said Beatz. "Anything that's positive, that's art in New York, I want to be part of. And we're honoring my brother Kaws tonight, so I'm here to celebrate him and have fun," he added. "I love that he started as a graf writer and now you can look at auction sales of 14 million, so it's like, sky's not the limit — it's just a view." 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."



KAWS Honored At The New York Academy Of Art's Annual Tribeca Ball

April 10, 2019 by Mikabila Bloomfield

A glamorous evening underwritten by Van Cleef & Arpels, the 24th annual Tribeca Ball brought out venerable names in art, fashion, and media. This year's Tribeca Ball honored New Jersey-born fine art phenomenon, Brian Donnelly, better known as KAWS, whose painting recently smashed auction records, selling for \$14.7 million. Grammy award-winning producer and Haute Living cover star Swizz Beatz co-chaired the event.



The décor for the evening was inspired by the iconic clover motif of Van Cleef & Arpels' Alhambra collection. During cocktail hour, guests including Coco Rocha, Donna Karan, Nicole Miller, Brooke Shields, Liev Schreiber, and Naomi Watts, enjoyed five floors of gilded stilt walkers pouring champagne, live art-making demonstrations, and musicians while mingling with art students in their studio spaces. Prior to heading down to dinner by renowned chef Daniel Boulud, the art-lovers in attendance picked up a few pieces to add to their personal collections.

The gala raised over \$850,000 to support scholarships for student artists and public programs. Founded in 1982 by a group of artists including Andy Warhol, the school's original mission was to encourage classical technique, figurative art, and critical analysis in the New York art scene. socialite casualty at these parties, I'll never know. But they sure do keep coming back.



The Best-est Party Looks of the Week

By Paola de Varona April 12, 2019

Even while staring into the abyss this week with the release of the first-ever photo of a black hole, these celebrities were still able to party free from any existential dread. Elaine Welteroth and Karlie Kloss went dressed in matching suits to a gala in New York. Bella Thorne attended a grand opening party in the city in all matching red, down to her nail polish and hair. TK Wonder wore a giant bow for the Bronx Gala. Meanwhile, Martha Stewart went all out with the monochrome look at her book signing, proving beige doesn't have to be boring. Who wore the best look? Scroll to see everyone below.

Most Creative Heels: Brooke Shields





This Week in Parties

By Starr Bowenbank Apr 13, 2019

Coco Rocha attends the 24th annual Tribeca Ball hosted by The New York Academy of Art on April 8 in New York City.



Coco Rocha attends the 2019 Tribeca Ball in New York City.



Brooke Shields attends the 2019 Tribeca Ball in New York City.

Art Market Darling KAWS Was the Star at the Glamorous 2019 Tribeca Ball

The street artist was fêted at the gala, which raised more than \$850,000.



Sarah Cascone, April 17, 2019

The students of the New York Academy of Art threw open their studio doors last week, welcoming hoards of fashionable art lovers to the 24th annual Tribeca Ball.

As guests lined up to enter the event, which was sponsored by Van Cleef & Arpels, they were greeted by a jazz band and elaborately costumed stilt walkers. Inside, larger-than-life performers were quick to pour glasses of Champagne Bollinger's Special Cuvée from magnum sized bottles. But despite all the bells and whistles, the focus was on the art.

"I love to be able to actually get to experience the artists in their environment and hear about their inspirations," academy devotee Brooke Shields told artnet News, noting that she had made, as always, several purchases to help raise funds. She also weighed in on her character on Jane the Virgin, River Fields—an amazing name if there ever was one. "She's a piece of work. River's not a bad person, but she's very needy, and she thinks she's an icon, so we need to treat her with kid gloves!"

The event honored street artist Brian Donnelly (better known as KAWS), who has returned to New York fresh from his headline-stealing week in Hong Kong, where his massive floating public sculpture was an Instagram sensation and his auction record soared to new heights with a \$14.7 million painting changing hands at Sotheby's. (The artist was loathe to discuss his growing success; when this reporter identified herself, his response was "oh no! Should I be talking to you?")



Some 900 guests turned out for the star-studded occasion, including fashion designer Donna Karan, model Coco Rocha, and actors and former couple Liev Schreiber and Naomi Watts. Seated at KAWS's table were his friends and fellow artists Peter Saul, Lee Quinones, and Erik Parker, as well as SPRING/BREAK Art Show founders and directors Ambre Kelly and Andrew Gori.

"Brian [KAWS] owns about 20 of my paintings. I hope some of his prosperity trickles down to me," Saul joked to artnet News at the dinner, presented by chef Daniel Boulud.

There were just two auction lots on the night: a KAWS print, which sold for \$40,000, and a vintage necklace from longtime Tribeca Ball sponsor Van Cleef & Arpels, which fetched \$32,000.

The diamond Alhambra piece, with its signature clover motif, was the inspiration for a roulette wheel-themed photo booth that attracted long lines during the cocktail hour, as was Jacques Arpels' motto: "To be lucky you have to believe in luck."

Academy president David Kratz assured guests that they were giving to a good cause: "Since we don't even have a sports team, we don't look at Photoshopped water polo champs." The gala raised a total of over \$850,000.





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