



Chelsea Night and an Art Block Party


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by Pat Rogers

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NEW YORK CITY, NY

A certain Chelsea block will be filled with art lovers tonight for a street party fueled by 35 art galleries. The 26TH ST PARTY coincides with Chelsea Night, an event sponsored by Frieze New York art fair. Festivities take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at West 26th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues.

 Chelsea Night is the fair's way of linking art fair goers with the rich Chelsea gallery scene. There are 26 Chelsea galleries exhibiting at Frieze New York, said Jane Cohan of the James Cohan Gallery. There are around 35 galleries partaking in the 26TH ST PARTY.

The 26TH ST PARTY is the Chelsea gallery neighborhood's way of welcoming Frieze New York to the Big Apple and expressing appreciation for the outreach in "Chelsea Night," said Cohan.

"The 26TH ST PARTY is an opportunity to come together as a community and give a festive respond to Frieze's Chelsea Night," she said.

The James Cohan Gallery is exhibiting at Frieze and participating in Chelsea Night / 26TH ST PARTY. Other galleries participating in both include Galerie Lelong, Harris Lieberman Gallery, Lehmann Maupin Gallery and Mitchell-Innes and Nash.

Galleries participating in the 26TH ST PARTY but not at Frieze include Pace Prints, Ana Cristea Gallery, Barry Friedman, Ltd, Mixed Greens, Ippodo Gallery, Field Projects, Rush Arts Gallery and others. A full list of participating galleries and planned festivities can be found at www.partyon26th.com.

Galleries remain open until 8 p.m. There will be food trucks and "hidden prizes inside the galleries," according to a release. DJ Hannah Bronfman spins danceable music at 6 p.m. The band Dreamshow takes over at 8 p.m. The block will be closed to cars to transform the street into a pedestrian mall. The event concludes at 9 p.m.

The block party gives an extra advantage to art fair goers, said Cohan. Seeing a single work or two by an artist at an art fair and viewing an exhibition at a gallery are two distinct experiences, she said. Both have value and are part of the ways people view and discover contemporary art.

Art fairs allow viewers the chance to become acquainted, in one fell swoop, with galleries and artists they may not have seen before. Art displayed in booths can whet a fair goer's appetite to see more of an artist's work, said Cohan. Gallery exhibitions present a fuller picture of the artist's work and can help realize the artist's vision and intent, she said.

Many of the galleries participating in 26TH ST PARTY for Chelsea Night are presenting an A-list of exhibitions, said Cohan. A gallery list and some of the exhibitions on view can be found at www.partyon26th.com.

Special presentations are also part of the evening. “Press Hold to Talk,” a live radio play by Cheryl Kaplan, begins at 4:30 p.m. at Andrea Meislin Gallery. Kaplan’s event coincides with the exhibition “Special Effects” by Ofri Cnaani. Artist Lesley Dill will be in-house from 3 to 5 p.m. at the George Adams Gallery, where her large-scale installation “Faith & the Devil” is being exhibited.

BASIC FACTS: 26TH ST PARTY for Chelsea Night is being held tonight (May 5) from 6 to 9 p.m. at West 26th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. The street party is open to all. There is no admission fee. The block will be closed to cars allowing for a temporary pedestrian plaza for mingling.

The event was organized in partnership with Art Station, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation and Friends of the High Line. Sponsors include Brooklyn Brewery, Artlog, The Serve, Hotel Americano and artnet.

For details, visit www.partyon26th.com.

Want to know what’s happening in the Hamptons art community? How about the North Fork or NYC? Visit HamptonsArtHub.com to find out.

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