

ARTFORUM



Variety Show
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Left: Art Production Fund codirector Doreen Remen, artist Josephine Meckseper, and Art Production Fund codirector Yvonne Force-Villareal. Right: Ragnar Kjartansson's project at the Armory Show. (All photos: Linda Yablonsky)

ARMORY ARTS WEEK in New York is not Miami Basel. The air isn't balmy, the parties aren't excessive, the product promotions are chill, and the art fairs—at least ten this year—are just another weave in the fabric of New York life. That leaves the art world to ogle itself without pesky intrusions from celebrities, who largely stayed away this time around.

To start the week's engines, the intrepid nonprofit Art Production Fund chose last Monday night to unveil its latest public commission: Josephine Meckseper's Manhattan Oil Project, featuring a pair of full-scale pump jacks working the ground of the only remaining piece of undeveloped property in the Manhattan theater district.

Donated by the Schubert Organization for temporary use by the APF, the land is the latest to fall prey to art-world designs in this wonderfully crass neighborhood. Guests could escape the blustery winds at a reception for the artist at the Playwright Celtic Pub next door. Festooned with paper shamrocks in anticipation of Saint Patrick's Day, this old New York tavern powered the pumps (which visitors could see through the windows) via a long cable from its basement, while waiters passed fried chili peppers and sliders to a complement of friends and supporters who included Meckseper's dealer Andrea Rosen; collector and expectant father Glenn Fuhrman; Sotheby's Tobias Meyer; artist friends like John Currin, Rachel Feinstein, Lisa Yuskavage; and of course Richard Phillips, Meckseper's supportive other half.