



## ART PRODUCTION FUND HOSTS THE CONCRETE JUNGLE GALA

Photography by Rachel Small | March 16, 2016



L to R: Ryan McGinley; Margot, Stacey Bendet, Amirah Kassem; Nate Lowman; Petra Collins, Madelyne Beckles; Patricia Cronin, Cindy Sherman, Isolde Brielmaier; Marilyn Minter, Lorna Simpson, Bill Miller; Eric Daman, Stephanie Savage, Tonya Huskey

Last night, the New York-based public art nonprofit Art Production Fund threw its seventh annual gala benefit at the former vaudeville theater Diamond Horseshoe, just off Times Square. With a history of distinctive and playful themes, this year's fête channeled the proverbial "Concrete Jungle" in an homage to the artists and other creatives who "fight tooth and nail," as the hosts described, to live and work in New York. As such, "tooth and nail" was the dress code for the evening, most literally realized with about a half dozen gold nails holding up artist Jessica Craig Martin's hair. APF's founders Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Remen and Director Casey Fremont all wore Gucci to showcase the gala's fashion sponsor, as did the artist honorees, Ryan McGinley and Jane Kaplowitz Rosenblum. Also in attendance were artists Nate Lowman, Lorna Simpson, Cindy Sherman and Marilyn Minter, curators Isolde Brielmaier and Thelma Golden, and fashion icons Steven Klein, Inez Van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin. Artists Petra Collins and Madelyne Beckles greeted guests upon arrival with a performance seemingly spoofing the media spectacle of "young feminist artists"—as declared in a ringmaster-like fashion by a male announcer—in which they wore pajamas and sucked on pacifiers behind a glass window. After cocktails and dinner, the music duo Lion Babe gave a rousing send off to revelers, who were beginning to trickle back out into the jungle.