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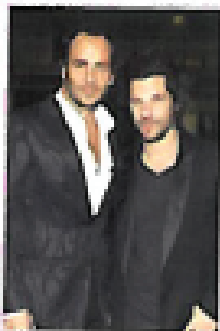
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upstart artist aaron young roars into the armory



Tom Ford and Aaron Young.

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Gigi Mortimer and Renée Rockefeller.

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The 10021 zip code will soon be a fashion and art hot spot, if the 128-year-old Park Avenue Armory has anything to say about it. After hosting the Proenza Schouler show during fashion week, last night the venue was turned into a performance space for the artist Aaron Young, whose *Greeting Card* was created while a who's who of style cognoscenti watched from the bleachers above. As Tom Ford, Chloë Sevigny, Benjamin Cho, Tara Subkoff, Stefano Tonchi, Sean Lennon, Richard Buckley, Nate Lowman, Dan Golan, Adam McEwen, and Francesco Clemente peered through a cloud of exhaust, Young commandeered ten motorcycle stunt riders to burn rubber (literally) for seven minutes on 288 panels of painted plywood, exposing a jumbled-up pattern of swivels, curls, and circles. While some, like Stephanie Seymour, who dreaded having her hair smelling like tar for the rest of the night, wished they had grabbed the gas masks on offer (earplugs were available, too, and there was a special glassed-in area for those with ultra-sensitive noses), everyone agreed the performance and resulting artwork were worth the hype. Tary Richardson likened it to something Evel Knievel might have done, while painter Sissel Kerdel found some Matthew Barney similarities.

The mood quickly went from Hells Angels to full-on fabulosity after the performance, when Tom Ford invited a select few to a darkened, velvet-roped portion of the Armory for a buffet dinner. This event was presented by Yvonne Force Villareal and Doreen Reman's Art Production Fund, and the Armory's new management team is planning to utilize the space for more future performance-based events. Looks like the U.S. may not be the sole preserve of the ladies who lunch anymore.

— Derek Blasberg

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