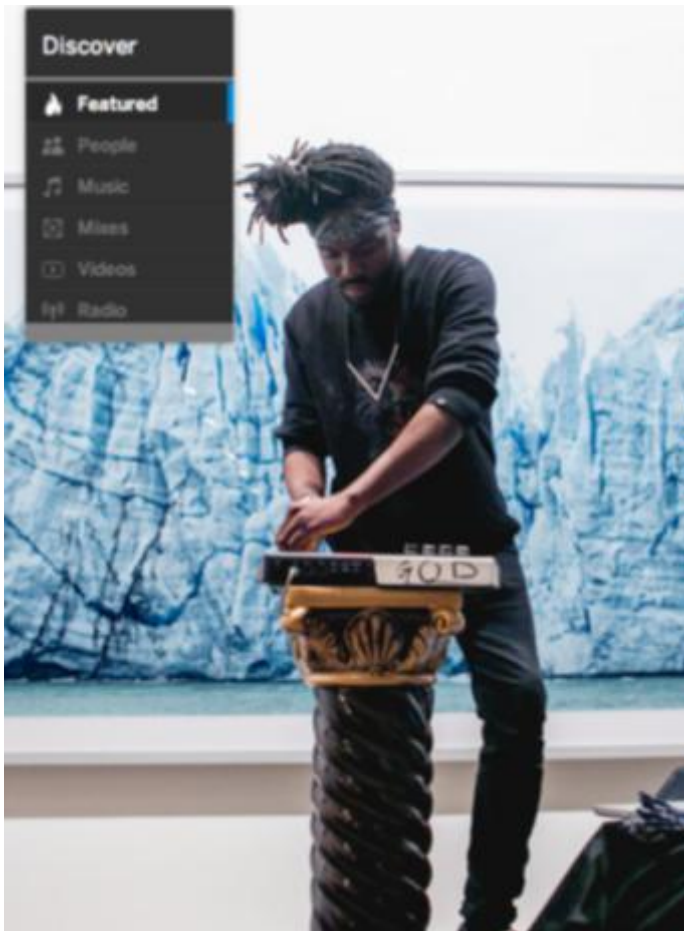


SEANKELLY

Dudley, Courtney. "19 Artistic Eyes at New York's Armory Show," *MySpace*, March 10, 2014.

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19 Artistic Eyes at New York's Armory Show



The music and art world collided at a Chelsea gallery during a Frank Thiel and MeLo-X collaboration show on March 7. We caught up with the cultured crowd in attendance, including the night's big stars.

Artists just wanna have fun.

During Armory Week, galleries from all over the world take up residency in New York City to unveil their newest artists' creations. No-name hopefuls mingle with curators of some of the most established galleries while starving artists dress to impress high dollar collectors and hope to brush shoulders with the scene's leading artists.

Armory Week is like any festival; Knowing where to go and who to talk to is half the battle. Friday evening, those who were lucky enough to score an invite showed up at Sean Kelly Gallery in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood to witness the one-time collaboration between visual artist Frank Thiel and music artist MeLo-X. Set to a backdrop of Thiel's massive, vertigo-inducing photos of Patagonian glaciers, MeLo performed some of his greatest remixes live while the scene's elite rubbed shoulders and got their buzz on, courtesy of Absolut. Gallery owner and big boss Sean Kelly planned the party and ordained the union between MeLo and Frank before knowing that Frank is a huge fan of all of MeLo's music. "Frank would probably play trap music in here right now," one friend told me, explaining the German-born artist's intense love of all things hip-hop. Kelly's intuition paid off because the crowd fell seamlessly together.

Choreographer and artist Jonah Bokaer gracefully yet jokingly danced using a drink stirrer as a prop wand while painter Kehinde Wiley's laugh, as loud as his blue and yellow suit, echoed off the gallery walls. This crowd was doing it right.

MeLo-X



Occupation: Creator

Hometown: East Flatbush, Brooklyn

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?

For me, it's being a part of it with Sean Kelly. This is my first time actually being involved in Armory week but I do like to go to the piers and see the exhibits and all the different galleries from around the world. I went to Miami this year and that was really fun so it opened my mind about going to fairs and seeing everything in one place.

What music would you play in this room right now? I'd play Lykke Li.

What are you listening to lately? Schoolboy Q, Jesse Boykins III and Flying Lotus.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Salvador Dali, "The Persistence of Memory."

Kehinde Wiley



Occupation: Artist

Hometown: South Central Los Angeles

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?

Being able to witness the spectacle of art consumption in my own backyard.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration? I would say Jay Z and Marina Abramovic

What music would you play in this room right now? "Feeling Good" by Nina Simone.

What are you listening to lately? Honestly, Pape Tiouf. Senegal has some of the most amazing young musicians. He really gets the pulse of the culture right now—this weird intersection between Africa pre-colonial and young, globalized Africa. He's an extraordinary talent.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? A really great David Hammons.

Erin Wahed



would you choose? Dan Flavin

Occupation: Too hard to sum up in one word! I represent talent and I also do jewelry.

Hometown: Montreal, Canada

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? The various openings, seeing the new artists up on the scene.

What is your favorite music/ visual art collaboration? Something one of my directors did with Lexus for fashion week—they did this event with Coco Rocha and they live projection-mapped stuff onto her and she was dancing and there were three different screens, it was amazing.

What music would you play in this room right now? James Blake.

What are you listening to lately? Emily King because I just did a music video for her and she's about to drop a new EP.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what

Rich Chychota



Occupation: Sound Engineer

Hometown: Philadelphia, Penn.

What is your favorite music and visual art collaboration? Me and Melo did an event at my house and it was a collaboration of an art gallery performance at a secret location so we made a giant X and did some video mapping on that, had some video mapping behind him and pulled it all together. It was pretty nice, it'll be up soon.

What music would you play in this room right now? DJ Shadow's Endtroducing.

What are you listening to lately? A lot of deep house. Specifically Jack Dixon's "Lose Myself."

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Any of this stuff, actually.

Mega



Occupation: Designer

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale

What's your favorite music/visual art collaboration?
Sega Genesis and Reebok—they did a sneaker in the 80's.

What music would you play in this room right now?
"Proto Acid" by A Guy Called Gerald.

What are you listening to lately? The Drums

Justin



Occupation: Artist

Hometown: New York, NY

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?
The sensory overload.

What music would you play in this room right now?
Iron Maiden.

What are you listening to lately? Deerhunter.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? I don't know but it would be made by me.

Liz Ann Macgregor



Occupation: Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Hometown: Sydney, Australia

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? It's two things. It's seeing so much work in one place and meeting so many people as you walk around. The art world is all about networking. And also seeing new work for the first time, which is very exciting.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration? John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

What music would you play in this room right now? Sibelius' "Symphony No. 5" because its all about Finland and ice.

What are you listening to lately? Talking Heads.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Oh, the Callum Innes that Sean Kelly

had on his stand. How's that for creepiness?! The beautiful one called "Blue Lake."

Jackson



Occupation: Designer, Man of town

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? It's just meeting great people, networking and enjoying great art.

What music would you play in this room right now? Prince's "Kiss" to get it really jumpin' in here.

What are you listening to lately? Aretha Franklin.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Jeff Koons' "Muhammad Ali" series.

Jelani



Occupation: Digital Creative Director

Hometown: Knoxville, Tenn.

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? I love art, so it's all about inspiration for me.

What is your favorite music and visual art collaboration? One of my favorite recent ones is Miguel and Janelle Monae. I typically don't love that Janelle Monae but I love that song and video they did.

What music would you play in this room right now? Jay Z's "BBC."

What are you listening to lately? B. Lewis.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? One of Basquiat's nude portraits.

Reggie Ugwu



Occupation: Music Journalist

Hometown: Houston

What the most exciting thing about Armory week? Coming to this party.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration? Arca and Jesse Kanda at Moma PS1.

What music would you play in this room right now? "Drunk in Love" by Beyoncé.

What are you listening to lately? Mas Ysa.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? "Girl with the Pearl Earring."

Brady Willis



Occupation: Music licensing

Hometown: Seattle

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?
Coming to this party.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration?
Beyoncé's Beyoncé.

What music would you play in this room right now?
Jungle's "Brother."

What are you listening to lately? Jungle, Wet.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? A Van Gogh self-portrait.

Kisha Batista



Occupation: Photographer

Hometown: New York City

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?
The photography, because it's fairly new to me and I'm still learning. It's so much inspiration to see other photographers' work. I saw one artist had photographs on metal in frames with resin drizzled all over the photo. It's dope to see other photographers' perspectives and what they do.

What music would you play in this room right now?
Mozart.

What are you listening to lately? Sade's old classics.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? That big piece right there. [Points to five paneled Frank Theil print.] I'm obsessed.

Rowe Jones



Occupation: Musician

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? Bringing an eclectic group of people together to appreciate one thing, which is art.

What's your favorite music/visual art collaboration? Beyonce's album. She did an amazing job with the visuals.

What music would you play in this room right now? Journey's "Don't Stop Believing." I fucking love that song.

What are you listening to lately? Kings of Leon, Donna Summers.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Something by Andy Warhol.

Erica



Occupation: Fashion recruiter

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? It's really exciting because it's all of this art from all these different artists in a concentrated space and its information overload in a way but it's also really inspiring to walk through and see how everyone is being inspired with their artwork in different mediums.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration? The Whitney Biennial two years ago. Rashida Bumbray did a Run Mary Run performance in the midst of the biennial and it was like this ring shout, which is a traditional African religious thing in the space of all this art from all these different artists. So she turned the Whitney into a church. I had never been in that space and seen that sort of performance before.

What music would you play in this room right now? Prince or Apollonia 6's "Sex Shooter."

What are you listening to lately? Wendell Irvine, Toro y Moi, Little Dragon.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? Any portrait by Malick Sidibe.

Dave



Occupation: Stylist

Hometown: Cincinnati, Oh.

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?

The merging of the cultures. You have the older, Upper East Side ritzy generation and the younger transplants like myself. We get to look at the same thing but we catch different views. Some are looking to buy and others are looking to just look at. So you're able to see high-end art even though you're not looking to purchase.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration?

Animal Collective's videos.

What music would you play in this room right now?

Aluna George's "Kaleidoscope Love."

What are you listening to lately? Pharrell's G I R L,

Rudimental.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what

would you choose? A Jackson Pollock, off the price alone.

Piper Cardy



Occupation: Brand Ambassador for Absolut Vodka

Hometown: Originally from Texas grew up in Sydney, Australia

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week?

Being able to get together with people who are passionate about art and the creative side of life.

What music would you play in this room right now? Old

school hip-hop.

What are you listening to lately? Beyonce's "Drunk in

Love."

If you could own any one work of art in your home what

would you choose? An Andy Warhol Absolut bottle.

Shelly Beaumont

Occupation: User Experience Design for Estee Lauder

Hometown: Northern California

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? I moved to New York City for more art and culture so being able to take a five-minute cab ride to Chelsea and experience an art gallery such as this with such amazing artwork is a dream.

What is your favorite music and visual art collaboration? I recently experienced a collaboration of music and art at Envision Festival in Costa Rica and my favorite was the DJ Polish Ambassador who collaborates with performance artists while on stage and it's all live.

What music would you play in this room right now? Adele's "Someone Like You."

What are you listening to lately? Wild Light's "Live Inside a Dream."

If you could own any one artwork in your home what would you choose? A Hilary Williams painting.

Frank Thiel



Occupation: Artist

Hometown: Near Berlin, Germany

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? Having a good excuse to be in New York and spend some time with my friends.

What is your favorite music/ visual art collaboration? Matthew Barney's "River of Fundament."

What music would you play in this room right now? Some Fela Kuti tune.

What are you listening to lately? A lot of African stuff. But I know all of MeLo's work, which surprised the gallery.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? The Eiffel Tower.

Lauren Kelly



Occupation: Gallery Director

Hometown: Born in England, raised in New York City

What's the most exciting thing about Armory week? For me this week, it's been the collaboration of this event between MeLo and Frank and working on that.

What is your favorite music/visual art collaboration? Tonight. Frank is a big fan of MeLo's music and they've met and MeLo is doing his performance based on Frank's photographs so I think it's perfect synergy.

What are you listening to lately? SBTRKT and Rick Ross' new album.

If you could own any one work of art in your home what would you choose? I would love to buy my father (Sean Kelly) a Joseph Cornell shadow box.