NEW YORK

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50 Up-and-Coming New York Culture Makers to Watch in 2013

By Judy Berman on Dec 19, 2012

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Jennifer Catron and Paul Outlaw

Couple artist duo Jennifer Catron and Paul Outlaw get it: It's one thing to "hate the Art World" and scoff in the corner scribbling supposedly brilliant manifestos that will show them, one day, yeah yeah, yeah… It is quite another to go full-on opulent performance, to create immerse experiences and be as bombastically unconventional as you want. It's hard to describe their contrarian performative practice exactly, though Hyperallergic came close: "Channeling Rococo extravagance, Elizabethan theatrics, and a decidedly Post-Modern sense of inclusivity, Catron and Outlaw's work is like riding the offspring of a mechanical bull and a time machine." Last time we saw them in action, they were strapped to a carnivalesque wheel that continuously dipped them into a vat of gold liquid while a crowd of red-wigged or red-beard-wigged gallery goers stood with mouths agape. — Marina Galperina

What are your plans for the holidays?

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Paul: Aww man! Christmas time is the best! We've already decked out the place with trees and decorations and a constant supply of eggnog. I've pulled out the holiday sweaters and have eaten nothing but pie for the past three weeks preparing. There will definitely be some holiday gumbo eating and oysters shooters too. Jen's trying to talk me into throwing another "Jen-n-Paul's World Famous Christmakwanzaramadanakkuh Party." It's a possibility. Everyone's excited about it except for the neighbors. Maybe I should invite them this year. They were probably just feeling left out last year and that's why they called the cops, 20 times. Nobody likes feeling left out.

Jennifer: We will have a party, and the cops will for sure show up. But we really know how to celebrate Christmas! Paul dresses up like cousin Eddie every day and I bake a pie a day, turkeys, stuffing, some trips home (Southern IL and Alabama) to shoot guns and ride four wheelers and eat more pie. It's a great time of the year.

Which New York artists do you count among your greatest inspirations?

Jennifer: No one incredibly famous, more of our friends, and the emerging younger artists. I really find them to be taking risks and really on top of things, and it's that competitive camaraderie that's really fueling the art world right now. I rarely walk into MoMA and think, "Wow, this is really inspiring."

Paul: Aw man, I feel like every artist is a New York Artist. I mean, this is the place to be if you wanna make it as an artist. This is the center of the universe when it comes to this kind of thing. Every artist that I have ever admired was in New York. This place is a creative juggernaut.

What's coming up for you in 2013?

Paul: 2013 will probably be our best year ever. I plan on us rising to international acclaim and being involved in numerous museum shows including our retrospective at the Guggenheim. It will probably be a good year to release our autobiography as well. 'Cause the people want to know.

Jennifer: We will then launch our new clothing line and release a single. If we are really lucky, we might get to launch our own boring brand of backpacks and trash cans and sell them for remarkable prices!!! It will be a big year.

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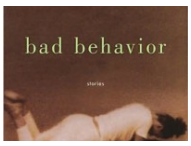

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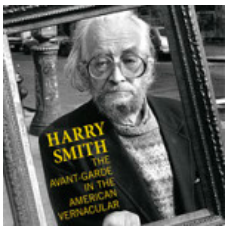

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nicknormal 5 pts

Actually, "the wonderful DIY venue Silent Barn" was located in Ridgewood - that's in Queens. I know "Brooklyn" rolls off the tongue cooler, but if you type "Silent Barn" in the google,

you'll see Ridgewood creep up. That's called research. At least you got Benh Zeitlin's birth-borough correct.

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thawking 7 pts moderator

nicknormal Well done, Nick! You win the Gratuitous Internet Pedantry prize for the day!

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roseheels 5 pts

My god, thank you so much. I've been trying to figure out why I'm so unhappy and why I don't receive more compliments on my clothing and hair and personal style. What a beautiful culture these people are creating. I would also like to stop being poor and have fun doing it. Hooray for things like art activism, parties, DIY capitalism.

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