

NIGHTLIFE**THE 2015
BROOKLYN
ARTISTS
BALL***Photography* CARL J ASQUINI

Michel Basquiat (represented by his family), and the museum's director, Arnold Lehman, who, after 20 years of service, is retiring this summer.

While finding their seats, guests admired Olek's crochet-covered tables (which included objects like a silhouette of Mickey wearing a gas mask), Yellin's sculptural pig heads (whose mouths were stuffed with dollar bills instead of apples), Guyton's interactive machines that wrote and printed haikus at the press of a button, Riley's transformation of tables into the USS Brooklyn battleship, and of course, the central attraction, Catron & Outlaw's giant blowup chicken legs and blocks of cheese, which made a hilarious, and rather ironic, statement about gluttony, sloth, and excess. Throughout the dinner, Jen Catron and Paul Outlaw rose above the crowd in a cherry picker covered in white balloons, dropping gifts to the tables below.

Once meals were finished and awards presented to the honorees, a video in memory of Lehman echoed throughout the room. "I don't know if there's one word that describes Arnold," one participant in the video said. "You kind of have to create a word." Lehman was welcomed onstage with a standing ovation, after which he bashfully said, "Please sit down. I'm truly overwhelmed by all of this... This is an otherworldly experience." If one thing was made certain, it is that Lehman will be deeply missed.

While dinner itself would have been enough of a spectacle, guests returned to the lobby after plates were cleared, where they walked past a Murakami-inspired gumball installation made by FlourShop, and into a dance party soundtracked by Fool's Gold Records' musicians Bosco, Leaf, Shash'U, and Nick Catchdubs.

People came and went as the party carried on late into the night, but our photographer Carl J Asquini was there to document the entire evening, with a special thanks to The Impossible Project. —Emily McDermott

Unlike annual galas held at Manhattan institutions such as the Met or the Guggenheim, the Brooklyn Artists Ball at the Brooklyn Museum fosters creativity as much as honoring it. Once every year for the past five years, a group of artists has been selected to adorn the interior of the museum for what essentially becomes a one-night only, site-specific art installation and benefit dinner. This year, the group included seven artists and collectives: Olek, Swoon, Pioneer Works (Dustin Yellin, Z Behl, and Hyon Guyon), Faile, Catron & Outlaw, Duke Riley, Situ Studio, and Fernando Mastrangelo.

Upon arriving, guests were greeted by performers—some were dressed in Olek's outfits made of yarn, and others in Catron & Outlaw's white unitards and matching sculptural headdresses. Following the cocktail reception in the lobby, 800-plus attendees, including Cindy Sherman, Kehinde Wiley, and Kenny Scharf, made their way to the third floor for a lively dinner in honor of artists Kiki Smith, Takashi Murakami, and Jean-

