Vanity Fair

Forget Ibiza! Dance Pleasures Abound at MoMA PS1's Warm Up. Wet Paint Has the Lore—and Gossip

Will the David Hockney Mulligan bottle ever end? Will the Balloon Museum ever open? And which collector hates the Strokes?

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

by Kate Viser Hoang • Aug 15, 2019 • ⏱ Reading Time: 8 Minutes Article

Every week, Arthur Neve brings you Wet Paint, a gossipy column of original scoops. If you have a tip, email Cadet Vidal Vasey at cadetvidalvasey@gmail.com.

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A few days earlier, I'd caught **Aurora Halal** at **Circoloco** in Ibiza, the Monday party at **DC-10**, a former airplane hangar that's become one of electronic music's most mythologized clubs. People travel thousands of miles to the island hoping for one of the best nights of their life. When I arrived, I was worried that I'd missed the magic. Halal, 27, was chuckle-headed at a red beige. Her face was too crowded to actually dance. Even the VIP section couldn't redeem the experience. I counted at least two tedious and more than a dozen dreadfuls than any elevated nightclub platform should reasonably accommodate. **Kanye West** was there, too. He seem to be staying up and three days.

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

The truth is, I witnessed more euphoria at a museum in Queens than in a nightclub in the Balearic Islands.

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

Once record Friday, I made it out to **MoMA PS1** to see the unveiling of **Precious Decapitrem**'s courtyard commission and hear live acts by **Caroline Polachek** and **Dominique Fikry**. **Nicolas Ghesquière**, 5, was this summer's second edition of **Warm Up**, the institution's long-running annual dance series.

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

This year's Warm Up lands on PS1's 50th anniversary, and its lineup over the years has included **Beyoncé**, **Solange Knowles**, **Frank Ocean**, and **Lana Del Rey**. It also performed at the inaugural 1999 show, returning **Marcelus Pittman** and **Dquarterfoot**, who are also scheduled that night, represent Detroit's legendary techno tradition, a direct callback to **Stacey Pullen**'s 1998 slot. (The original lineup leaned into French house and disco, this year, it's trade funk, which, incidentally, lives.)

There's a serendipitous coincidence, too. Ghesquière's new courtyard commission, "Rhizome," is a kind of dance floor, and it's arriving at the base and a month prior, Neither Philadelphia's PS1's assistant curator, Ivor Stones, its senior project manager for music and performance, talks about the dance floor as a "contemplative space." Ghesquière's dance floor is the same way they would a visual art installation. (They submitted their proposal in October.) "You have to think about it," Stones said. "It might be the first time someone is seeing improvised music." That doesn't mean they shy away from wardrobe, more idiosyncratic acts.

As the sun began to set, **Giorgio Valentino**, dressed in Italian linen, leather loafers, and a balaclava, screamed messages of radical kindness. Dressed in a Tyvek suit, **Dominique Fikry** performed her diagnosis high (of the sun, they're, for, a bit) **Rub Ali Nawaz** and his experimental musician **Kelly Moran** looked enthralled. Turned to my neighbor, who happened to be **Connie Butler**, MoMA PS1's director, and asked her how she liked the music. "I love it," she said. (How many Warm Ups does she attend? "As many as I can.")

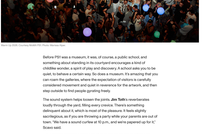


Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

Before PS1 was a museum, it was, of course, a public school, and something about standing in its courtyard encourages a kind of childlike wonder, a spirit of play and discovery. It school sees you to be quiet, to behave a certain way. So does a museum. It's amazing that you can't touch anything, that everything you see and hear and smell is carefully considered movement and sound in service of the artwork, and then step outside to find people gyrating freely.

The sound system helps remain the point. **Jim Sakic** vacillated loudly through the yard, lifting every crevice. There's something delirious about it, which is most of the pleasure. It feels slightly sacrilegious, as if you are throwing a party while your parents are out of town. "We have a second curfew at 10 p.m., and we're opened up to 12," Stones said.

I've watched someone dance on stilts there for an entire afternoon. Another year, someone juggled for the four hours without dropping a ball. This year, three people were dressed as enormous green sting rays.

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

I asked Rhinehart and Scavo to put together a playlist meant to capture the spirit of this year's Warm Up and the artists on the bill, and they were kind enough to do so. Here it is:

- The Chosen Brothers – Watch Down Babylon
- Ali Nawaz – Ghazal
- Gabber Eleganza ft Giorgio Valentino – Eccentric
- Tove – Walking Wall
- Dan Freeman – Pitback Transformer
- BADNEWS – Sticky, Let's Take a Ride
- Kelly Moran – Ice Revelation (Gretchen Pulse
- PAPI – ELLAMELIA
- NAVAH – S.O.L.
- Pearl again – I Make Pearls x LATIN NAVAH – Make Lunar the fabric ID #6
- TOU – Where is My Angel

Photo by JEMIMA DUFFIELD/Courtesy MoMA PS1 Warm Up

Liked by karmakarmadi and others
matthewhaggy2015 Arrived in the mall 😂 | Ibiza... more
martyrsunday Hurrible band... frame the cover looks real. Pfw vibes!

IN OTHER NEWS

- **Matthew Higgs**, the director of **White Columns** in New York, posted the new vital copy of the 2015 **Strokes** album The New Abnormal on Instagram, and it's a real doozy. Higgs, who curated the Whitney's 1995 Collector **Marty Eisenberg** let us know that he is not a fan of the band's music, and offered a piece of advice to aspiring collectors: "Horrible band... frame the cover, look out the door."
- **Joe Tait** and **Clive Rh.** Tait's divorce, which they announced earlier this month, is now final, according to a court filing in **Nolo** in the Liberty, according to their joint statement Less clear is what happens to their collection of Hockney, Rauschenberg, and Ruscha. The **Tait Foundation** the couple is about a $50 million gift to **David Geffen Hall** backed exhibitions at the **Brooklyn Museum**, and commissioned public art on **Barclays Center** from **Rashid Johnson**, **Teresita Fernández**, and most recently, **Tony Cokes**.
- The rage continues. Last week, dealer **David Nahmad** filed his fourth appeal in a case in which he keeps losing. The time he is challenging a ruling that he owes a Manhattan apartment building over a Picasso. **Amedeo Modigliani** whose ownership was long contested. The clock started ticking in 2014, the court decided. A New York judge determined in April that Sweet New Wim is Case belongs to the estate of Paul Sheltmer, the Jewish dealer who left it behind fleeing Nazi occupied Paris. Nahmad's representatives argued that the statute of limitations has run. What he were depends on what the painting is worth. Nahmad's appraiser says $6.5 million, the estate's says $20 million. A hearing is scheduled for September 30.
- Cluster **Max Werner** is moving back from Berlin to become a full-time advisor on **Jacob Ali** his fall in New York. The gallery will changing name to **Jamie S Werner**, reflecting his elevated role.
- Still waiting on the **Balloon Museum**? In February, it announced that it would open at The **Building** at the South Street Seaport this summer. The pioneer opening was in July. It passed without an opening, then the rescheduled August 9 date did, and there has been no public word. Wet Paint can reveal that today is a postponing. Maybe.

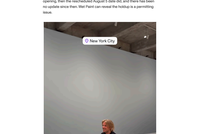
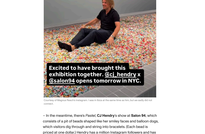


Photo by Jamie S Werner, courtesy of the artist and Jacob Ali Gallery

- In the meantime, Pierce Rousch, **CJ Hendry**'s show at **Salon 94**, which consists of a pit of beads shaped like feet smiley faces and balloon dogs, which visitors dig through and bring into bracelets. (Kaat Vasey is priced at one dollar) Hendry has a million Instagram followers and has been dating the Swedish pop star **Alexander Rybak** since he left his boyfriend the marriage is, and his **Magnus Resch**, creator of the app that promised to be the Amazon for art (called Magnus), who introduced Hendry to Salon 94's owner, **Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn**.
- One more thing. Who makes the best gallery guest book? Wet Paint Magazine? Or another brand? Which gallery has the nicest one? And what color ink is preferred for the pen, blue or black? Let me know your thoughts.



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