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All the Art World Attended ICI's Gala

By Ashton Cooper



Plenty of art stars turned out Tuesday night for Independent Curators International's (ICI) annual benefit and auction, which raised over \$600,000 for the organization. Director Sofia Coppola, Garage founder Dasha Zhukova, FITZ & CO assistant director Noreen Ahmad, curating power couple Massimiliano Gioni and Cecilia Alemani, and artists Marina Abramovic, Nate Lowman, Dustin Yellin, and Christo were all there to see Agnes Gund present the 2013 Leo Award to Miuccia Prada and the 2013 Agnes Gund Curatorial Award to Germano Celant. Prada and Celant were being honored for the Prada Foundation's international art sponsorship, in particular the exhibition "When Attitudes Become Form: Bern 1969/Venice 2013," which closed earlier this month at the Ca' Corner della Regina, the revamped former palazzo that became the Prada Foundation's Venice exhibition space in 2011.

In Prada's absence, Celant accepted both awards. "I am honored to receive the Agnes Gund curatorial award and I look at it like a sort of Oscar," Celant said in his acceptance speech. "Considering the complexity of 50 years of my curatorial life, that's a lot of time, and 20 years with the Fondazione Prada, the description of those journeys would take more time than we have this evening — at least five hours," he joked.

The benefit had a baroque, “Phantom of the Opera” theme. Diners ate off of glass-plated tables and peered at each other over tall waxy candlesticks, while androgynous violinist Amadéus Leopold provided entertainment at the after-party. Works by Julie Mehretu and Dustin Yellin, among others hit the block in a live auction helmed by Sotheby’s VP Alexander Rotter, while results from an Artsy-powered silent auction tallied on screens around the room. The benefit will also be the last for ICI curator Bridget Finn who recently announced she would be moving to Mitchell-Innes & Nash to co-direct the contemporary program at their Chelsea gallery.

