

••• They are selfish places where money and art have no in public. But I gladly bundled up two Saturdays ago to head to the Dependent art fair, in the Condo Inn on Ludlow Street. I'm glad I did, though I think I might could while in bed with two people.

It was the week of the Artney Show and the Independent, huge events where art workers swap business cards and gossip. Last year, the Dependent debuted in a hotel on West 23rd, and it was so crowded that when the doors closed there was still a line down the block. To sneak in, my wife and I jumped our fourth-story, because invisible, and pretended to be hotel guests. Such are the advantages of being a certain age.

Not wanting to run down our elevator this time, we got to the Condo Inn at 2 P.M. The hallways were already packed. Twenty-one exhibitions occupied nine hotel rooms. Art was installed on every surface, even in the showers. In one room, the gallery Ramblers Crucible showed Andrea Crenna's batch of what looked like burnt sweating panties, set up-doggy-style on the bed. *Erases*. (They were socks.) Heron's room held Abigail DeVille's assistant's late, strewn with papers, markers, and junk. It was *Herefore* as art.

The Dependent is held in a hotel, for one day, on a shooting. I didn't see many collectors. Then again, I might not know if I did, because most of the faces were young. People were making connections, creating all sorts of energy, having amazing discussions on beds, in hallways, wherever. Which, in 2004, was how the best known at the Artney Show began.

The bed part was in the room of Canada gallery, which regularly shows good art while serving out of control art in business. The room was bedecked in flowers and handmade signs. In bed and in pajamas, Michael Mahabick and Debbie Tash co-coated John Lennon and Yoko Ono 1970s American bed-in, playing guitars and singing, nonstop for eight hours, "Give Peace a Chance." How could I not climb in and sing along? All we are saying: Sometimes even an art fair can be a creative force. ■



HAIR  
PEACE.

BED  
PEACE.

John and Yoko's Bed Peace.  
MICHAEL MAHABICK AND DEBBIE TASH  
From Canada gallery, New York