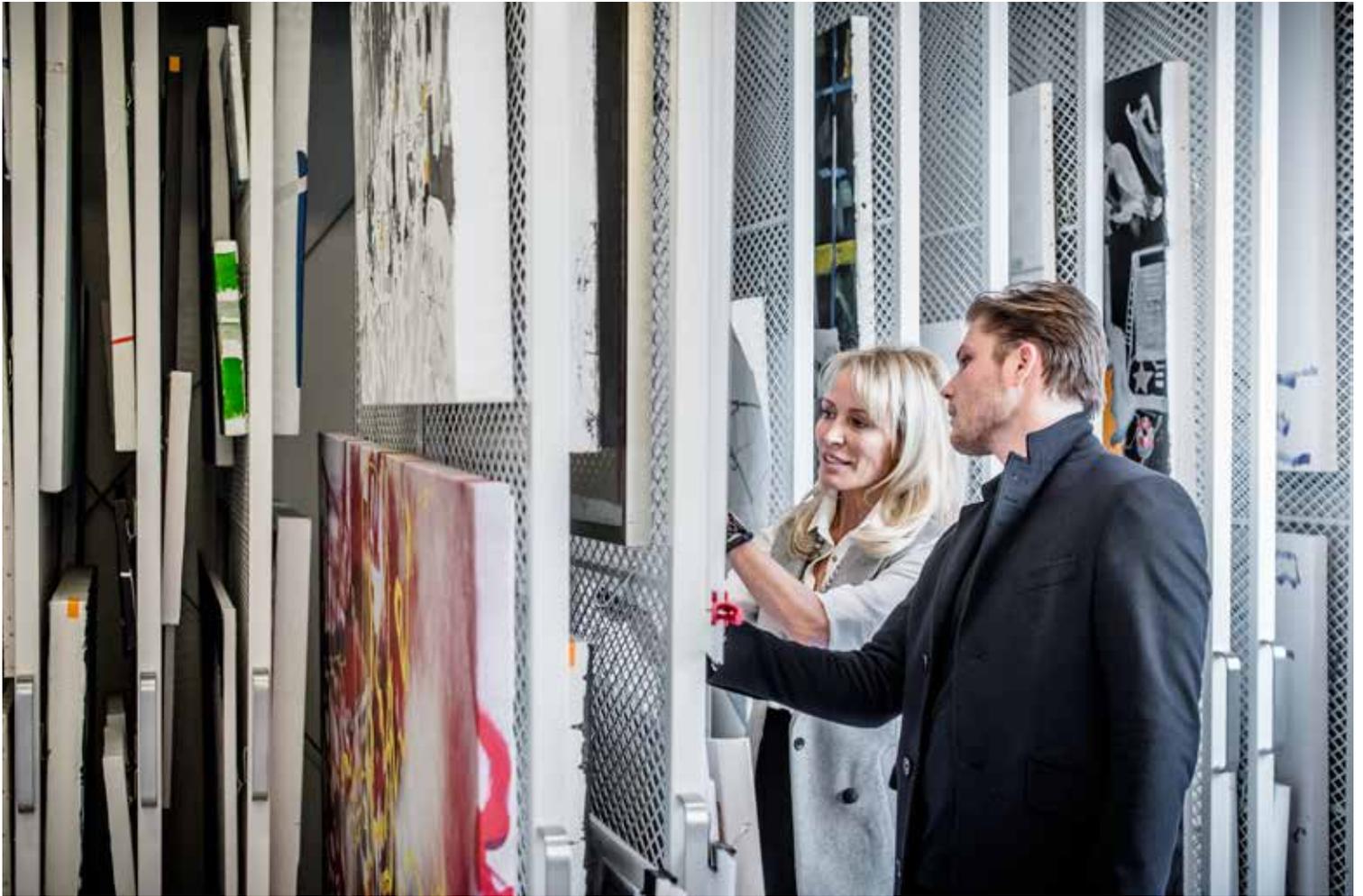


WELL CAST

London gallerist C.J. Jones of 10 Hanover and Chicago-based artist Paula Crown lead the 5th Anniversary of MTV RE:DEFINE, an all-star art auction and gala at Dallas Contemporary.



C.J. Jones with Paula Crown in her studio that faces Millennium Park in Chicago.

April for me has come to mark a yearly visit to Dallas for spring art season. In addition to the social and economic buzz around the Dallas Art Fair, all the museums, non-profits, and galleries seem to host a grand event, and this year is no different. The Goss-Michael Foundation will present the 5th installment of MTV RE:DEFINE, a contemporary art gala and auction to benefit the MTV Staying Alive Foundation and Dallas Contemporary where the event will be held this year. Relocating soon to a new space in the area, an exhibition featuring the work of Chicago-based artist Paula Crown serves as the closing exhibition at The Goss-Michael Foundation's current site. I had the opportunity to talk with the event's co-chairs Paula Crown and C.J. Jones to discuss the project, Dallas art culture, a new gallery, and studio projects in the works.

John Riepenhoff (JR): *How did you come to co-chair MTV RE:DEFINE?*

Paula Crown (PC): One frosty day in January, I was working in my studio. I started hearing voices... 'PAULA, YOU WOULD HAVE A GREAT TIME CO-CHAIRING THE MTV RE:DEFINE AUCTION. IT IS FOR A WONDERFUL CAUSE...AND DALLAS HAS BETTER WEATHER IN APRIL.' I rubbed my eyes and realized yes, the weather is much better in Dallas. I must Co-Chair MTV RE:DEFINE.

Postscript: The voices were those of Kenny and Joyce Goss standing in my studio. Their gracious and generous spirit, the auction beneficiaries, and the fact that CJ was involved—which upped my 'cool quotient' in the eyes of my children—made the decision to co-chair an easy one. I first met Kenny and Joyce in 2014 when I had an exhibition at the Dallas Contemporary. I was most impressed with the Foundation's collection and its outreach to artists and in the community.

BY JOHN RIEPENHOFF
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT THOMPSON

CJ Jones (CJJ): I've had a great relationship with The Goss-Michael Foundation for a few years. Kenny (Goss) is a close friend of mine, and we've worked together on a couple of shows recently. Kenny kindly asked me to co-chair, as I'm a big supporter of the charity and love what Dallas Contemporary is doing at the moment. I'm very excited to be co-chairing with Paula, who's a fantastic artist. We all met at her studio in Chicago; now here we are.

JR: *I love how recent relationships have moved fast to make these things happen; it's a testament to everyone involved having a sense of imagination and living in the moment to get things done. Paula, has your work as an artist taking personal thoughts and producing them on a public scale influenced the way you view the production of a cultural event like MTV RE:DEFINE?*

PC: Working on my own art projects or giving time to MTV RE:DEFINE are consonant with one of my own meta-life goals: to increase the opportunities to engage people with art in all of its forms. Art brings us to the present moment. It provides time for pause, thought, and reflection. In these turbulent times, we need more reasons to connect with each other. We have been overwhelmed with the polemics of politics, religion, and culture.

Art has been a feature of human civilization since the beginning of time. We have a core need to think creatively and to express our unique selves. How can we not prioritize 'art making' in our society? We should encourage everyone to see more closely, sense more deeply, and engage in enlightened discussion.

JR: *I find the Dallas art community very supportive. Even though you, Paula, and I both call the Midwest home, my first experience entering one of your large-scale installations outside of your studio was at Dallas Contemporary in 2014 when you exhibited INSIDE MY HEAD: A CONTEMPORARY SELF-PORTRAIT. What about the scene keeps you coming back?*

PC: Dallas understands the importance of art to civic life. A vibrant culture attracts people and commerce. It seeds a virtuous cycle. The Dallas Arts District, with its ecosystem of premier arts facilities, green space, and architectural design, is a vital, creative community. I have watched it develop and expand on the cultural map.

As an artist, I live in the realm of possibilities. Being part of a burgeoning community is exciting. Dallas is open to new ideas and interventions. It has a history of embracing innovation. It understands how the public and private sectors can work together. It is a joy to be in such an environment, especially working with The Goss-Michael Foundation.

JR: *Your exhibition will mark the final exhibition at The Goss-Michael Foundation in its current location in the Design District prior to its move to Wycliff. The show will be up during the Dallas Art Fair as well as the MTV RE:DEFINE events. What can we expect to see in this show?*

PC: *BEARINGS DOWN (2016)* is a multi-media immersive installation with sculpture, video, 3D animation, and sound. I am a mark-maker. The genesis of the work is a landscape drawing that I made while flying in a helicopter. This is relevant because traveling in the air affected my hand, the drawn line, and the subject matter. The sketch was magnified, 'dimensionalized,' rotated in space, and etched on a silvered glass surface. The etched glass serves as the top of an 'infinity' box, which is 3 feet by 4 feet by 3 inches. It has a mirrored bottom which creates infinite speculations of an illusionistic space.

(Warning: spoiler alert)

I will gesturally intervene with the object, smashing it with ball bearings at the beginning of the show. What remains is a visually charged object which merges rigid and organic forms. Image, video, and sound reflect a micro and macro landscape.

JR: *I understand that you are planning a project with C.J. for his London space. Is it premature to discuss your thoughts about that proposed installation? Will it involve immersive installation?*

PC: Although discussions are nascent, we imagine an installation where we would 'crush it' and 'get plastered' (puns intended). It would certainly be immersive. Sounds like fun, right? Stay tuned.

JR: *C.J., how has your experience with the community in Dallas influenced or effected how you see art and life back in London?*

CJJ: Since coming to Dallas it's been incredible to see how the art community here gels together, from museums to foundations, curators to collectors. There's an incredible keenness to absorb and be part of what's going on in contemporary art at the moment, and you can really feel the energy that everyone has to put Dallas on the map of the international art circuit (which they have firmly done!)

There's a great energy in London at the moment, but I'm not sure we have the culture to match the enthusiasm and close-knit community of Dallas.

JR: *Your gallery name recently changed to 10 Hanover. What else has changed; will you be working with a different stable of artists?*

CJJ: We changed our name to reflect a change in the way we operate. 10 Hanover is simply named after the address of the space. I wanted to start curating shows that mixed established artists with younger artists with a connection between them. I wanted to move away from representing artists to allow for a bit more freedom in what I can show and for how long. We opened the space with a show with Kenneth Noland, Sergej Jensen, David Ostrowski, and Wyatt Kahn. My next show will have an Asian influence as I have traveled there a lot recently. I'm hoping 10 Hanover becomes a destination in Mayfair to view interesting shows with artists you wouldn't necessarily see together.

JR: *You have collaborated on a number of projects with The Goss-Michael Foundation. When did you meet Kenny Goss? Which artists' work will you be donating to MTV RE:DEFINE?*

CJJ: I met Kenny three and a half years ago at Frieze London and have had a lot of fun putting on shows with him over here in Dallas. His energy is awesome, and the foundation and team he has are fantastic.

Quite a few artists we're working with have been kind enough to donate works: Luc Fuller, Grear Patterson, Hughie O'Donoghue, and Matthew Stone, to name a few.

JR: *Which artists are you bringing to the Dallas Art Fair?*

CJJ: This year we are bringing works by John Armleder, Evan Robarts, Stylianos SchicCho, Santiago Taccetti, Sergej Jensen, and Rob Pruitt.

JR: *Do you have anything you'd like to share about this year's MTV RE:DEFINE? Is there anything you are particularly proud of where we might see your influence on the event?*

CJJ: The event is always great fun with a great energy. I think the art will be a fantastic mix of great younger artists and established artists. Hopefully the works we've got raise a lot of money for the charity and the Dallas Contemporary. **P**