

American Friends of Batsheva Host Dance with Batsheva

Photos by: ©Paul Porter/PatrickMcMullan.com



Natanah Bogle, Natalie Portman and Ohad Naharin

With 250 performances a year in the world's most prestigious theaters and festivals, Batsheva is celebrated for its bold and innovative artistry. This acclamation has earned the compact, dynamic company the reputation of a leader on the global performing arts map. Batsheva has an international corps, made up of unique dancers from Israel and abroad. In fact, dancers are encouraged to affirm their distinct creative gifts as creators of their own

There was a program led by Natalie Portman, who spoke in English and Hebrew. "I am here to welcome Batsheva to New York. Ohad Naharin, Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, is such a good friend. I am lucky to have him in my life," she said. With a kiss on the cheek, she introduced Ambassador Gillerman.

"I take the week off from the UN when Batsheva comes to New York. Batsheva is the

pinnacle of beauty and excellence; they are the real Ambassadors of Israel," Gillerman said before he introduced Executive Director Naomi Bloch Fortis who announced, "Batsheva will be back in New York with Ohad Naharin's "Kamuyot" at the Jewish Community Center on Amsterdam Avenue in March 2008 as part of their "Israel Non-Stop" Festival.

Naharin ended the program. "The dancers are the heart of Batsheva. Spend time with these hard working, generous, beautiful and creative people and you will see the connection between pleasure and pain. These are people who know how to laugh at themselves. I believe we should all dance every day."

For more information please visit:
<http://www.batsheva.co.il/site>

The Bruce Museum's Bruce Circle Dinner

Photos by: Bob Capazzo



Co-Chair Tamara Holliday and art collector Michel Cox Witmer

Greenwich Connecticut's Bruce Museum's highest member donor group, The Robert Bruce Circle is co-chaired by Tamara Holliday and art collector Michel Cox Witmer. The Bruce Circle along with The Directors of Sotheby's Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Art Departments, hosted an evening of cocktails, dinner and a private viewing of Sotheby's sale of Impressionist and Modern Art.

The main attraction were the 76 works of art on display. The lots were auctioned off a few days later for \$270 million. The highlights included paintings by Schiele, Pissarro, Signac, Monet, Picasso, Chagall, Ernst and Dali. There was Vincent van Gogh's "The Fields," about which, David Norman (Sotheby's Executive Vice President, Co-Chairman, Impressionist and Modern Art Worldwide) explained: "This was his last painting, completed in 1890, 2 weeks before he shot himself in the chest in that very wheat field. Although mortally wounded, Vincent got back to his room. His landlady called his brother Theo who came down from Paris. The painting hung over the artist's bed. The brothers

sat in the room for a day and a half before Vincent expired."

Norman also told a story about Paul Gauguin's "Te Poipoi," which was hung across the room. "Painted in 1892, it was one of the first paintings Gauguin did in Tahiti. It captures the morning rituals of the women who are wearing sarongs with fabrics woven in Europe - a mixture of European and Tahitian symbols. Gauguin sold it in Paris in 1895 to raise more money for supplies before he returned to Tahiti. "Te Poipoi" sold for \$39,241,000 to Joseph Lau of Hong Kong).

The 99 year old Greenwich museum's CEO Peter Sutton, talked about the level of art appreciation in that fair city: "One of the remarkable resources of Greenwich and its environs is the quality and depth of its private art collections, which has inspired our museum's current exhibition: "Contemporary and Cutting Edge: Pleasures of Collecting Part III." A delicious 3 course meal followed and then more time to peruse the paintings on display. For more information please visit: www.brucemuseum.org



David Norman, Anita Harley, Robert and Pamela Goergen
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