

TEA PARTIERS GO MAD ABOUT THE HATS

Armory Art Center's Artist-in-Residence program benefits from third annual event

Photos by: Lucien Capehart Photography



Luiza Nasielewska, Tiffany Spadafora and Joanna Ballarini



Petra Levin, Mia Matthews and Daniela di Lorenzo



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Ivana Trump



Jasmine Horowitz and Elizabeth Scokin



Armory Art Center's Mad Hatter's Tea Party chairwoman Tracy Stern, hat judge Iris Apfel, and chairwomen Annie Falk and Marie Samuels

(PALM BEACH, FL) – Hats off to the chairwomen for the Armory Art Center's Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Annie Falk, Marie Samuels and Tracy Stern planned another over-the-top Alice in Wonderland themed party, held at Club Colette, Palm Beach. Guests arrived in their most wild, yet stylish hats to bid on one-of-a-kind hand made teapots.

The room was red and black and the tables were set with a playing card theme. As guests sat down for lunch, some replaced their hats with the creative napkin rings – gemstone headband tiaras made by Marie Samuel of Everyday Tiaras. The tea partiers sipped on signature teas courtesy of Tracy Stern SALONTEA, and the fabulous lunch kept in the party theme complete with “eat me” on the heart and diamond shaped desserts.

“The luncheon was a sell-out success again,” said Therese Shehan, executive director for the Armory. “This event has become all about the hat. From feathers and ribbons to paint brushes and tea cups, the guests really showed their artistic side in their hat creation. And the chairs of this event did an outstanding job with every little detail.”

During the luncheon, fashion icon Iris Apfel took note of all the outrageous hats. As hat judge for the luncheon, Apfel awarded “Most Wild and Wacky Hat” to Brian Somerville, “Most Creative Hat” to Lucinda Pascale Stonestrom, “Most Unique Hat” to Natalie Barasch and “Best Themed Hat” to Betsy Meany. Prizes were courtesy of Eric Javits and Tiffany & Co.

The funds raised during the Mad Hatter's Tea Party benefit the Armory's artists-in-residence programs in ceramics, sculpture, jewelry and painting.

“Our goal this year, besides having fun, was to raise enough to add two more artists-in-residence programs at the Armory,” said Falk. “I am proud to say that we accomplished our goal and will add residency programs in printmaking and bronze foundry. We thank our sponsors and everyone who supported this event. It is fun to plan and even more fun seeing it all play out!”

Sponsors for the event included Annie Falk, Mary & Robert Montgomery, Regina Porten, Everyday Tiaras, Tracy Stern SALONTEA and Wachovia Wealth Management. Mia Matthews was a Tea Pot sponsor and Tea Cup sponsors included Catherine Adler, Kara Ross, Linda Silpe, Lori Stoll, Jim Swope and Moira Wolofsky-Fiore.

Celebrating 20 years of artistic excellence, the Armory Art Center is a not-for-profit community-based visual arts center providing opportunities for individual growth, self-expression, increased awareness and appreciation of the arts through participation in studio, exhibition, lecture and other educational programs. The Center seeks to educate, enrich and engage a diverse population through the “experience of art.”

The Armory Art Center is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council. For more information on the Armory Art Center, please call 561.832.1776 or visit the Armory's website at:

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