

## New Spin on Summer White

August 7, 2012



*Sam Polcer*

Guests mingle at the New Museum's White Party.

In general, we don't love going to parties that call for a dress code, but it's an unavoidable pitfall of the social scene. Over the weekend, we went to a black, white and yellow party. On Wednesday at the New Museum, life became a lot simpler. The wardrobe for their summer white party, was, as you might guess, white. Take that, P. Diddy.

The museum had a clever media partner, by the name of Whitewall magazine. The museum also had cleverly named beverages, as sponsored by Bulldog Gin, including a Blanco Sour (gin, lemonade); an Ivory Bride (gin and olive juice) and the Diddy Meets Capote, since, remember, all you young ones, Truman Capote threw a famous black-and-white ball? This was made of gin, club soda and sour mix. We're not totally sure which part is Diddy, which part is Capote, but we'll guess that Capote was the sour mix?

For the most part guests wore white. There were white Lacoste polos, white tennis shorts and white summer dresses. We, of course, wore purple. We told you we don't love a dress code! Plus, we had places to go after.

"Anytime you have a mandatory costume party for privileged people, you automatically think of 'Eyes Wide Shut,'" said the writer Sloane Crosley, referring to the Nicole Kidman/Tom



DJ Jack Greerr

*Sam Polcer*

Cruise/Stanley Kubrick picture. Walking through the museum's "Ghosts in the Machine," an installation that "surveys the constantly shifting relationship between humans, machines and art," it was possible to be reminded of yet another Kubrick feature: "A Clockwork Orange."



*Marielle Sales for Guest of a Guest*

This memory was certainly exacerbated by the presence of strange-looking disco balls, Paul Sharits's "Epileptic Seizure Comparison," a video piece showing patients in various stages of seizure, and a reconstruction of an especially uncomfortable-looking, large dystopian mechanical device inspired by Kafka's "In the Penal Colony." Trust us, it's intense.

Partygoers take in 'Ghosts in the Machine,' an installation now on view at the museum.

Thankfully, Günther Uecker's "New York Dancer IV" was not in operation; it might have added another layer to the cool-but-macabre atmosphere. A wood sculpture covered with "Hellraiser"-like nails, it only moves around twice a day. And sometimes, said a guard, the nails accidentally shoot out. "But we haven't had a lawsuit yet," she said. Phew.



*Sam Polcer*

Canadian artist Dominique Paul in a dress she made from recycled plastic bags. The dress took a week to create.

Back on the main floor, as more hipsters dressed in white piled in to the museum, the Canadian artist Dominique Paul was holding court. This was probably because her dress was the most striking of all, having been constructed from white plastic bags. Her handbag, meanwhile, was made of blue plastic bags. It was originally supposed to be the belly of an insect costume that Ms. Paul had made for a project inspired by Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis." Yes, two Kafka references in one evening, and at a White Party, no less. You can't make this stuff up.

Ms. Paul said she made her plastic bag dress especially for the party. How many bags did it take to construct it? "I didn't count," she said. "But it took me over a week."

This is actually the second plastic bag dress Ms. Paul has made; the first was for an event sponsored by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. To keep it structured, she built it around a hula hoop. "I work with recycled materials," she said. "But at least I have

ventilation."

"Let's hope it's not biodegradable," said Anne-Brigitte Sirois, Ms. Paul's gallerist.

Ms. Paul, who lives in Bed-Stuy, had brought a change of clothes—an additional summer dress—and left it at the coat check to change into for the trip home. "It's not the walk home that worries me," Ms. Paul said. "It's sitting in the subway."

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**Corrections & Amplifications**

An earlier version of this article misspelled the surname of Anne-Brigitte Sirois.

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