

A Bright Flame

By Sarah Douglas

Published: October 1, 2008

During the summer months, work by some of the hottest emerging artists—international names like the painter **Hernan Bas**, who lives and works in Miami, and the Buenos Aires-born, Miami-based Conceptualist **Martin Oppel**—can be seen in the **Fireplace Project** in East Hampton, New York. Opened two years ago by the dealer **Edsel Williams**, the venue recently played host to **Aaron Young**. Many may recall Young as the talk of New York when his *Greeting Card*—an artwork involving motorcycles zooming around and making patterns on the floor—debuted at the **Seventh Regiment Armory** in 2007.

For his Fireplace show, "Pit Stop/Tit Stop," which ran from June 20 through July 7, he painted the space slate gray and installed a handful of his screen prints on metal depicting over-the-counter sexual stimulants. Several sculptural pieces by the artist were also on view, including a rock made of bronze tagged with spray paint, pictured, and a bronze chain-link fence that all but blocked the entryway to the second room of the gallery. Collectors weren't repelled, however: No sooner had Young's show opened than all the works were sold, at prices ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Williams won't reveal the buyers' names. But he will say that they were New York-based, with the exception of three European collectors, and that they were all present for the opening, which was packed with such connoisseurs as **Beth Rudin DeWoody**. (The prolific collector curated the group show "What's Your Hobby?" at the Fireplace last year.) "There was strong advance interest in Young's work," says Williams. "As soon as I made the exhibition public on our Web site, I got requests from collectors all over the planet." Then again, he adds that this sort of response is typical "for most every show we do."

"A Bright Flame" originally appeared in the October 2008 issue of Art+Auction. For a complete list of articles from this issue available on ARTINFO, see Art+Auction's [October 2008 Table of Contents](#).