

ARTS,  
BRIEFLY

## An Invasion of Color at Chelsea Art Gallery

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The famously chromophobic Chelsea got a shock of color on Thursday night: lime green, sunshine yellow, orange and spring green on the walls of the Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl Gallery, defying conventional wisdom that galleries must be white. The masterminds were two architects known for shaking up hotels and houses with bold hues: **Peter Stamberg** (who held court in a fluorescent orange jacket from Joe Fresh) and **Paul Aferiat** (in pink seersucker), founders of Stamberg Aferiat & Associates.

Invited to design and organize the exhibition “Art on Color,” they chose a vibrant backdrop for works by **David Hockney**, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, **Joel Shapiro**, **Ann Hamilton**, **John Baldessari** and **James Rosenquist**, with tints inspired by the master colorist Henri Matisse, drawn from “Luxe, Calme et Volupté.” Mr. Stamberg credited Mr. Hockney with teaching them how to make art pop on a wall. He said that several years ago the pair were viewing a Hockney exhibition of drawings at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art with the artist, who had colored the walls.



The walls of the Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl  
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“He pointed out to us that when you look at art on a white wall the first thing you see is the frame, but when you look at art on a wall with color, the first thing you see is the art,” Mr. Stamberg explained at the opening.

On Thursday night, **Ruth Lande Shuman**, founder of Publicolor, a nonprofit organization that fights poverty by engaging high-risk students with design-based programs, said the reaction to the show was enthusiastic.

“I think of color as music, and I think what they created was enormously musical,” she said. “They saturated the space with so much positive energy — they have a very clear understanding of color.” Mr. Stamberg confessed that the first time the pair used color on the wall, “we were trying to recreate Hockney’s swimming-pool blue.”

He added: “We told Hockney that we couldn’t find the right shade. He said, ‘If you’re ever having trouble with color, go to Matisse. He has all the answers.’ ”