

# BROADWAY

## The New York Times

### The Art World's Podcast Hosts a Bash

By Alex Vadukul and Katie Van Syckle

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The hosts of “Nota Bene,” Nate Freeman and Benjamin Godsill. Mr. Freeman is a culture correspondent at Vanity Fair and Mr. Godsill is an art adviser. Credit...Rebecca Smeyne for The New York Times

Art dealers, painters and critics mingled on Monday night at the opening of a group show, “Friends of the Pod,” at Broadway Gallery in TriBeCa. The exhibition’s name nodded to the podcast that organized the event: “Nota Bene,” a weekly talk show hosted by two art world insiders, Nate Freeman and Benjamin Godsill, who discuss the industry’s news and gossip with the kind of breathlessness that might befit Siskel and Ebert — if they’d hung out downtown.

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“Friends of the Pod,” which runs until Feb. 3, features the works of artists who have appeared as guests on “Nota Bene” or who have been discussed regularly on the podcast, with pieces provided by art stars like Rashid Johnson, Sterling Ruby and Jonas Wood. Mr. Freeman is a culture correspondent at Vanity Fair and Mr. Godsill is a prominent art adviser.

“We’re true insiders, Nate as a journalist and me as an adviser,” Mr. Godsill said. “Our listenership ranges from heads of the biggest art fairs to the owners of small galleries on the Lower East Side.”

“There’s lots of obfuscation in the art world, and we’re trying to bring transparency to it,” Mr. Freeman said. “We’re here to tell you what’s really happening behind the scenes.”

Hanging out near his own painting, the artist Andrew Kuo sipped a tall boy of Carlsberg. And the critic Dean Kissick considered a painting of oysters by Hilary Pecis and a sculpture by Tony Matelli of a Roman-style bust covered with celery sticks and an eggplant.

“That food appears in these works, in a way, mirrors what ‘Nota Bene’ is about, because a big part of the podcast is talking about going to dinner,” Mr. Kissick said. “That’s because a big part of the art world is about going to dinner. Dinner is how the art world works.”



A canine guest checks out the scene beside Tony Matelli’s sculpture. Credit...Rebecca Smeyne for The New York Times

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Admiring a piece by the painter and sculptor Sam Moyer was Bridget Finn, the director of Art Basel Miami Beach. “I was just listening to a new ‘Nota Bene’ episode on my way here,” Ms. Finn said. “They always get the inside scoop.”

Attendees soon walked through the cold to a nearby after-party at a dimly lit bar in Chinatown, the River. Trays of pickled cauliflower, beets and green beans were offered to guests like Rachel Tashjian, a fashion writer for The Washington Post, and Noah Horowitz, the chief executive of Art Basel. Gutes Guterman, the co-editor of the web publication Byline and a founder of The Drunken Canal, sipped an old-fashioned and wore a sequined scarf.

Clad in a dark suit, Max Hollein, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, maneuvered through the crowd to reach the bar. “I listen to the show from time to time,” he said. “It’s two buddies talking. I find it quite fun and relaxing.”

As midnight approached, the scene embodied the podcast’s subject matter: gallerists and artists sat in dark corners of the room drinking tongue-loosening martinis while they talked business and traded gossip. Mr. Freeman and Mr. Godsill were busy chatting with their fans, but they weren’t off the clock, keeping a close ear to the whispers around them.