

AVENUE

LEO VILLAREAL UNVEILS LATEST BUCKYBALL EXHIBIT AT SANDRA GERING ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE



On Monday evening, November 3rd, New York's art crowd headed uptown to Sandra Gering's UES gallery to toast the unveiling of artist Leo Villareal's most recent sculpture, *Buckyball*. Villareal's first *Buckyball* sculpture was installed in Madison Square Park in 2012. He has now created two more *Buckyballs* in the series, appropriately scaled down for a gallery-sized space. Among the guests spotted by AVENUE insider: Anthony Haden-Guest, Jane Holzer, Donna D'Cruz, image expert Erika Chloe, Karen Erickson, Lisa Perry, Stephen Petronio, Tracy Stern, and Leo Villareal's wife, Art Production Fund co-founder Yvonne Force Villareal. Post-opening, many of the guests walked (or tottered in their heels) to nearby Amaranth for a casual buffet supper featuring many of the restaurant's (which just celebrated its 15th anniversary) classics: tuna tartare, artichoke salad, and focaccia robiola—just for starters. Cocktails were flowing too, naturally. Just as everyone was about to take his or her seat, Gering stood on a chair to speak and promptly silenced the crowd. She used to pass the original Madison Square Park *Buckyball* everyday on the way to work. Now, she plays guardian angel to the new sculptures: "The first night they were in the gallery, I think they had a mind of their own. So when my alarm went off at 4:00 a.m. in the gallery, I had to come in!" Fortunately for Gering, these smaller scaled sculptures should be easier to keep a watch on.