

## And Then What Happened?

April 23, 2007

### French Connection

## CYRILLE MARGARIT AT BRUNO JAMAIS RESTAURANT CLUB

by Jackie Beach

While some people can reach out with two arms and touch all four walls of their \$3,000 per month Manhattan apartment, Cyrille Margarit divides his time living in three fabulous locations: New York City, southern France, and a French Caribbean island. **The debonair artist showed his artwork for the first time in New York last week at Bruno Jamais Restaurant Club on the Upper East Side.**

"I have deep feelings for New York," Margarit said, waving his arms around the chandelier-lit room. "This is my town. I first came here when I was 18 years old." Mentioning that his grandfather was part of the Normandy resistance and introducing his mother and sister who accompanied him during his pioneer showing, it was apparent people and relationships are important to Margarit.

The subjects of his work support this theory. Adorning the walls of the swanky restaurant were enlarged photographs Margarit had taken and then digitally manipulated and printed on sheets of brushed aluminum – a larger-than-life image of Mike Tyson, bruised and tense after a fight, an up-close shot of Scarlett Johansson's open-mouthed smile, and a series of images of a woman's naked back, draped in rose-colored strokes.

Margarit explained his inspiration. "I love the energy and excitement of New York and its people," he said. When asked about his favorite personalities to photograph, one iconic American figure stood out. "Madonna possesses amazing energy which was incredible to capture on film," he said.

But there is another side to Margarit, a quite different side. A glossy black-walled back room showcased a series of photographs Margarit took in the African safari. Capturing stunning images of wild beasts such as lions, elephants, and cheetahs, Margarit then contrasts the animals' magnanimity against the thick, blood red strokes of humans' petty quest for domination. The animals' wild spirits clearly defy containment.

"My Gemini side is Africa. In New York, there is the energy and the people, but also the noise and the pollution. In Africa, I am in love with nature and wildlife. That is where I go to escape."

Having traveled through many African countries, Margarit said it is impossible to run out of inspiration. The African pictures in the show were taken in Kenya and Tanzania.





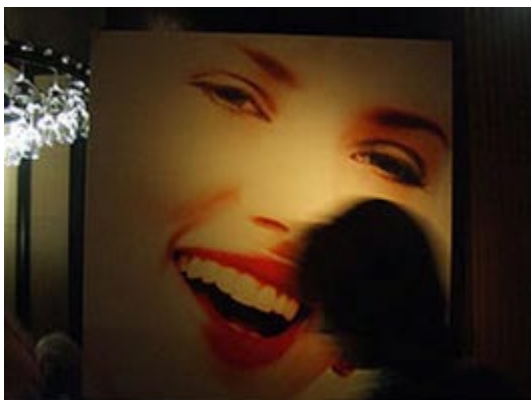
Margarit's modern work was enhanced by its location. **Rather than shown in what can be a stale, lifeless museum gallery, the Bruno Jamais Restaurant Club hosted a high-class event with gourmet hors d'oeuvres and bottles of champagne and wine flowing all evening.** The mood was festive, and guests rubbed elbows and socialized, happy to be a part of the elite crowd.

Approximately 200 members of the media, from Harper's Bazaar and US Weekly, to PBS Television and the New York Observer, attended the event.



Bruno Jamais, a French restaurateur who earned his chops at chef Daniel Boulud's restaurant, Restaurant Daniel, and then studied at Alain Ducasse, opened the majestic 4,500 square foot restaurant and nightclub in a prime location blocks from Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "I had a show in St. Barthes and Bruno was there," said Margarit. "He said, 'Your work is wonderful. I want you come to my house.' And here I am. Everything is magic here."

*Cyrille Margarit's artwork will be on display and can be purchased at Bruno Jamais Restaurant Club nightly through May 14th from 6pm to 3am, Monday through Saturday and Sunday evenings from 6pm to 2am.*



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