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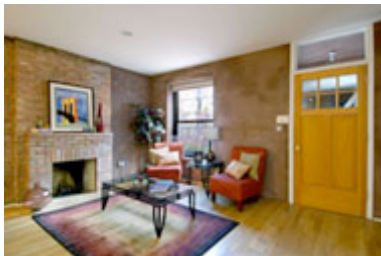
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More Good Stuff

ART, FREE WINE

And Attitude Too

By MELENA RYZIK
 Thursday, September 6, 2007

Don your most minimalist attire and perfect your knowing 10-foot stare because art star season is upon us. There are dozens of openings around town tonight, so options for **gallery-hopping and multimedia-hobnobbing** abound. Start at the [Zach Feuer Gallery](#) in Chelsea, where the **it-installation artist Jules de Balincourt**, known for his [enormous treehouse](#), presents "Unknowing Man's Nature," an exhibit of paintings. Conceptualists might enjoy "Sentry," at [Danziger Projects](#). [Penelope Green](#) calls Andy Freeberg's photos of the imposing desks that greet gallery visitors "luminous, comical and slyly trenchant studies" of the so-called architecture of intimidation. Design snobs can head to the [Sebastian + Barquet Gallery](#) to drool over the postmodern furniture by **Gio Ponti**. And that's just one neighborhood: if your eyes, pretension meter and liver can handle it, traipse down to SoHo and the Lower East Side too, where the creativity continues.



Stefan Kirkeby
 Photographer Andy Freeberg with image "Cheim & Reid" from the photo series "Sentry."

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MUSIC, NIGHTLIFE

Swedish Surprise

When the Swedish group **Peter Bjorn & John** played at Mercury Lounge, [Jon Pareles raved](#) that, with their amalgam of Merseybeat

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mid-1960s and early 1980s new wave (plus a lot of whistling), “they understand pop songs as nuggets of emotion delivered in mechanisms of riff and hook, repetition and surprise.” Tonight they’re performing with [the Clientele](#) at the much larger [Roseland](#). Get your tickets now, just to see how far they’ll reach this time. Then head to [the after-party](#) at the [Hiro Ballroom](#), where P.B.& J. will expand to D.J.ing.

“[Songs from Sweden by Way of Britain and Two Epochs](#),” by Jon Pareles

DANCE, FILM

He Doesn’t Take His Illness Lying Down

The choreographer **Bill Shannon**, sometimes known as **Crutchmaster**, is probably the only dancer to turn a [degenerative hip disease into an art form](#). Using specially designed, circular-bottomed crutches encased in rubber, he’s able to perform highly athletic, break-dancing-inspired moves. Tonight at the [IFC Center](#), he’ll present “**Second the Motion: A Dance of Ideas**,” an interactive piece that describes his style and history. There will also be a sneak preview of “Crutch,” a documentary about him. Catch it now, and you’ll be doubly ready for his performance at the [Sitelines festival](#) in a few weeks.

“[Have Crutches, Will Choreograph](#),” by Sally Sommer

SHOPPING

A Prop Lovely as a Tree

You’re probably not as handy as all those Ikea hackers, who [transform Billy cabinets into guitars and tabletops](#) — use their space. But you can find inspiration in the way they use their materials. Start your domestic transformation with the [Reveal](#), “a device that creates the illusion of light coming through a window that isn’t actually there.” Created by the Brooklyn designer [Adam Frank](#), it uses a small projector to cast the shadow of a picturesque view of a tree; thanks to an air pump, it even looks like the tree is swaying in the (faux) breeze. It’s \$380; get it and call yourself an arbor illusionist.

“[Classic Grandeur in 472 Square Feet](#),” by Joyce Wadler

“[Romancing the Flat Pack: Ikea, Repurposed](#),” by Penelope Green

“[Windows for Those Who Hate to Do Them](#),” by Julie Taraska

MUSIC

Care for Some Puccini With Your Verdi?

The rest of this week’s shows are sold out, but there are still tickets available for tonight’s opening of the **Opera for All Festival** at the [New York City Opera](#). Tickets are only \$25, and you’ll hear [highlights from the coming season](#), including excerpts from Bernstein’s “Candide,” Verdi’s “Falstaff,” Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly” and Richard Danielpour’s “Margaret Garner,” which opens the regular season on Sept. 11. Hurry, or it will be Opera for Everyone but You.

[Listing on the Opera-for-All Festival](#), by Vivien Schweitzer.

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