

TRIBES OF NYC

NASTY WOMEN

January 12-15 Knockdown Center, Flushing, Queens

BY SOPHIE WEINER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUIS NIETO DICKENS

On January 13, New York's underground art community came together at the Knockdown Center in Queens, a sprawling, 50,000-square-foot former factory turned gallery and performance space, to collaborate for the resistance. At "Stay Nasty," a four-day exhibition and fundraiser that reinterpreted Trump's notorious pre-election insult as a post-election demonstration of solidarity, any self-identifying Nasty Woman could contribute artwork whose sale would go to support Planned Parenthood. On the second night, visual art bedecked the main space while everything from dance performances and light installations to techno sets by some of New York's premier DJs occupied the rest of the center's many rooms. Most of the work had already been bought; proceeds from the previous night's sales totaled better than \$30,000.

Friday night's main show, an ambitious partnership between RESONATE, an arts event series supporting progressive organizations, and CHASM, which describes itself as a "Brooklyn-based curatorial project for new media, light art, and experimental music," featured at least seventeen musicians, filmmakers, photographers, and designers, while a ten-DJ Friday the Thirteenth marathon unfolded late into the night. Its massive scope notwithstanding, however, the event occasionally struggled to fill the enormous venue—at the evening's apex, as Brooklyn DJ Aurora Halal's pensive techno echoed out over the main space, only thirty or so people danced, each moving in their own bubble, with hundreds of square feet at their disposal.

1 "I guess over the span of the last month I feel a bit more numb than I was before," said Kaitlyn Hamilton, 27. "You can only be so upset. [Otherwise] you get exhausted. I guess that's where I'm at right now."

2 Musician and co-organizer Zack Kerns explained that while not all Nasty Women are alike, the event was "a good way to rally a lot of people that have similar

outlooks, but might not all have the same taste."

3 By day, Mickey Maclden works as Maroon 5's bassist; by night he becomes Reggie Dobris, one half of electronic punk rock outfit Collapsing Scenery, whose lyrics often trade in social and political themes.

4 Geoff Mak, 26, knows DJ Aurora Halal and has attended her regular

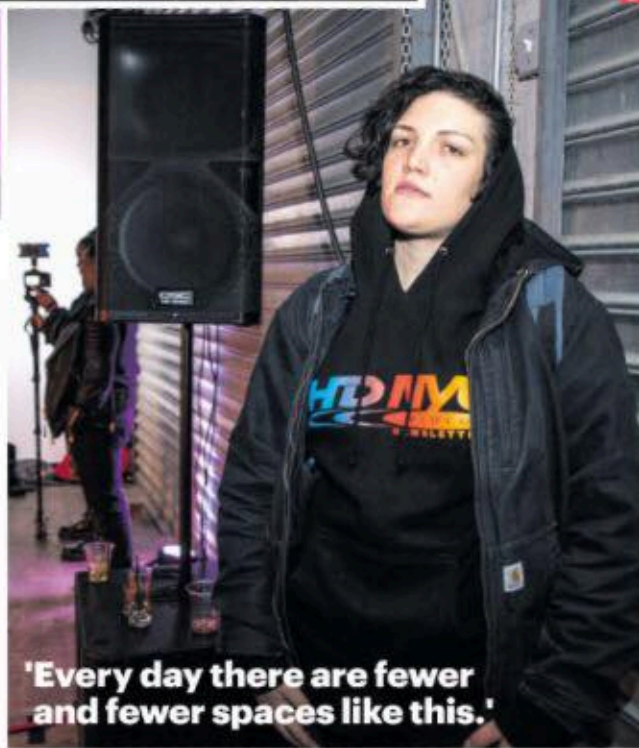
party, Mutual Dreaming. "She was always kind of DJing from the point of view that damage has already been done. As in, we've all already died, and we're dreaming our own afterlife," he explained. "The whole idea behind Mutual Dreaming is healing. And in this crazy environment, it's important to have healing spaces."

5 "I did another installation in a DIY space last month that was shut down," said Julia Sinelnikova, who helped organize the event. "This was an attempt to show the programming that wasn't shown that night, and to support causes that

are being attacked by the right-wing establishment."

6 Tucked into one of the venue's many cubbies, the Friday the Thirteenth marathon offered performance art, hip-hop acts, and half a dozen DJ sets, while attendees supplied the dancing.

7 "This is my personal dream lineup tonight," said 26-year-old DJ and record label proprietor Hannah Daly, who goes by HD and helped book and promote acts for the event. "There aren't many spaces like this now," she said, "that welcome underground art."



'Every day there are fewer and fewer spaces like this.'





VILLAGE VOICE - PHOTO GALLERY BY LUIS NIETO DICKENS -

“THE ORACLE” POETRY PERFORMANCE AT CHASM

