

## 'I Remember Heaven' offers intriguing pairing of artists

— By CATE MARQUIS

Sidewalks outside were packed with people in fancy dress. Places to park nearby could not be found, so the walkways leading to the venue were also full of people making their way to the opening.

Two art-covered vehicles, a sports car and a bus, were parked in front of the art venue. As people squeezed their way inside the crowded gallery, silver rectangular balloons floated by.

Inside, across from an enormous mural on the gallery wall, a long table was manned by a line of tuxedoed bartenders dispensing bright green martinis to the well-dressed throng.

Every area notable seemed to be occupied, with famous faces everywhere, but what was striking was the great number of young people in the crowd. As the crowd milled around, chatting, viewing the art with martinis in hand, light reflected off an enormous mirrored artwork on the wall.

Was this an art opening in New York? No, it was opening night at the Contemporary Art Museum's exhibit "I Remember Heaven: Jim Hodges and Andy Warhol." And heavenly it was, to see such a big art event in St. Louis.

"I Remember Heaven: Andy Warhol and Jim Hodges" features selected works of both '60s icon Andy Warhol and contemporary artist Jim Hodges, whose work was inspired by Warhol and is gaining more recognition.

The exhibit runs through April 8 at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, which is in Grand Center at the corner of Washington and Spring Avenues.

The exhibit is a must-see for fans of Warhol and wonderful introduction to Hodges.

This hit art event was curated by Dr. Susan Cahan, the Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Contemporary Art at UM-St. Louis. Cahan also teaches the UM-St. Louis class "The Legacy of Andy Warhol."

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