

Meanwhile in Zurich...

ZURICH. Art lovers travelling to Switzerland from abroad to visit Art Basel teemed around Zurich's active scene all of last weekend as a warm up for the main event, starting with the Friday launch of Grieder Contemporary, the new space opened by Damien Grieder, which is housed inside his newly renovated post-war modernist house in Kusnacht, along the city's "Gold Coast". Reflecting Grieder's days as co-founder of Berlin's now-closed Galerie Grieder von Puttkamer, his guests included the German capital's dealers Thilo Wermke and Matthias Arndt and major collector Stephan Landwehr, alongside London collector Charles Asprey and dealer Henry Alsop. The stun-

ning view of Lake Zurich and a long-awaited warm evening clearly invigorated his guests. "I thought I threw the last ones out at 4.30 in the morning," Grieder says. "But in the morning I discovered more of them in the house."

The next night, the Zurich Kunsthalle and de Pury Luxembourg gallery threw adjoining openings followed by competing parties. The dinner in the Zurich Kunsthalle was framed by a major retrospective of Los Angeles painter Laura Owens, and animated by artist Annelise Coste's DJing, while next door newly appointed Baltic programme director Jérôme Sans did double duty: he had co-curated the show, which



Koons, Warhol, and Hirst—as seen by Pat York

included bad-boy artists such as Kendell Geers and Kader Attia (see p8), alongside a live tattooing booth featuring designs from Wim Delvoye; after dinner, his band Liquid Architecture enter-

tained the guests.

Sunday was more civil. A packed brunch at Galerie Gmurzynska featured work by Greek artists alongside photographs of famous artists such as

Jeff Koons, David Hockney and John Baldessari snapped by Pat York (wife of actor/collector Michael York). "We're going to be doing a major book of the photos," says the gallery's Matthias Rastorfer. Meanwhile, the Kunsthalle-organised Contemporary Art Day Zurich took American collectors such as David Teiger and the Rubells around Zurich's best corporate and private collections before escorting them to the Limattstrasse 270 complex of galleries and museums, finally depositing them at the home of powerhouse local collector Maja Hoffman for a dinner described by one attendee as "mind-blowingly stylish." **Marc Spiegler**