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People Are Talking About... Thursday March 05, 2009 2:03PM

Splendor in the Grass



"People are looking for whimsy," says the Parisian-born landscape designer **Nathalie Karg**. "Gardens should be whimsical." And so, early last year, Karg looked to her background in the art world—she began her career as an art adviser—to create Cumulus, a new collection of outdoor objects and furniture designed by a constellation of contemporary art stars. An exhibition titled "The Party" opened last night at New York's Twentyfirst/Twentyfirst Gallery with the works of the first eighteen artists Karg invited to participate ("Like fashion, there will be a second show in the fall," she explains). On view were pieces like Rikrit Tiravanija's polished steel-and-glass Ping Pong table; Pentti Monkkonen's barbecue in the shape of an old-fashioned locomotive; and Rob Wynne's Wonderland-like bronze mushroom stool and table. Some of the works are one-of-a-kind; others are numbered or open editions. The idea for each piece, Karg says, is to "sit on it, eat on it, play with it. It's about living with the art."

—**Stephanie LaCava**

Photo: Courtesy of Cumulus Studios

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