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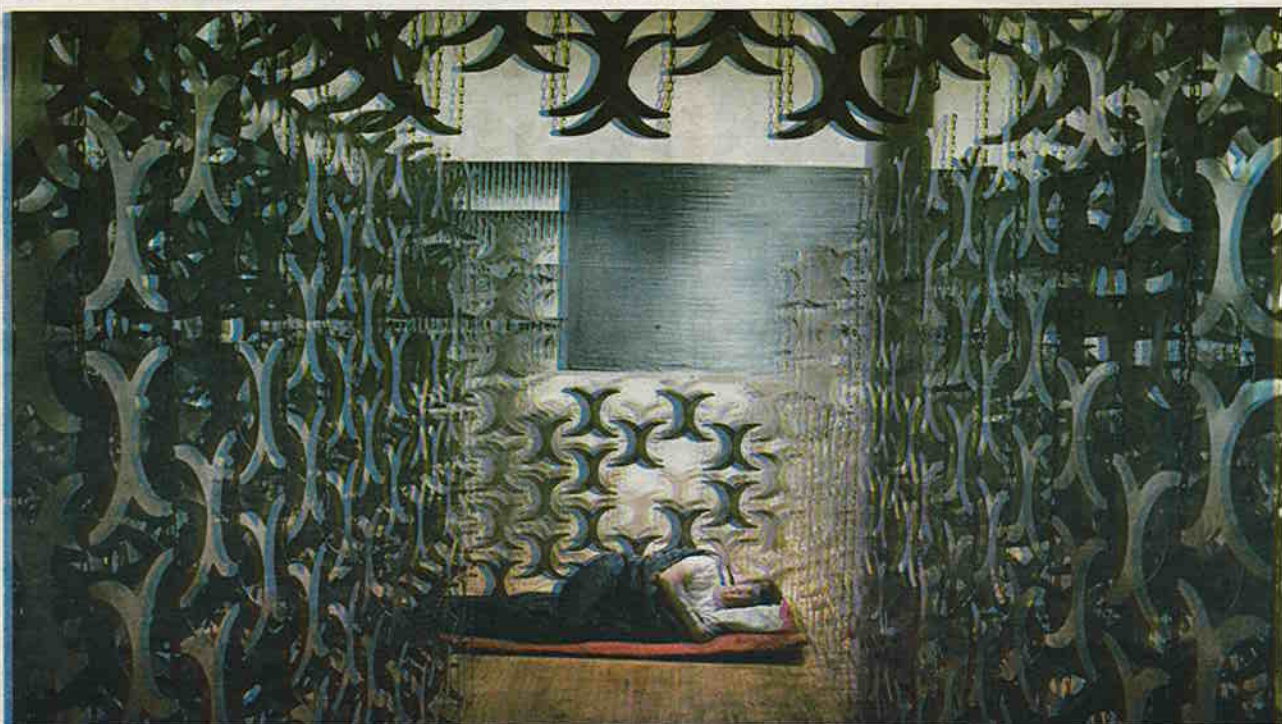
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ARON ROTHSCHILD/METRO

TIM DUBITSKY SLEEPS surrounded by H₂edge, a geometric matrix made of 5,200 aluminum panels and 5,000 feet of stainless steel chains created by Cecil Balmond and the ARUP Advanced Geometry Unit think tank.

Letting sleeping artists lie

Project explores public space long after visiting hours are over

AMY ZIMMER
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SOHO If an artist sleeps overnight at a gallery but no audience is there to witness it, is it still art? What if that artist doesn't do the sleeping himself, but has someone else lay in his place?

Dean MacGregor has brought his "sleeping project" to more than 20 spots over the past five years, spending the night at the Guggenheim Museum and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, among others.

Last Tuesday, for his piece in Artists Space, a Greene

Dubitsky packed his iPod, a book, some clothes, a notebook and some pastries for his overnight gallery stay.

Street gallery, he brought a sleeping bag for Tim Dubitsky and left the 28-year-old there around 11 p.m.

"I wanted someone fresh to do it," MacGregor said. "I wanted to get someone else's first-hand experience."



MACGREGOR

He asked Dubitsky to write about the night. "I had the idea [the sleeping project] was really reversing the normal process for an exhibition," MacGregor said before he and two friends tucked Dubitsky in. "It's also about having the space to play with and discovering a new space."

For example, Artists Space, unlike, say, the Guggenheim, doesn't have 24-hour security so MacGregor had unobstructed access to the gallery's wine and

Um ... OK

• On MacGregor's Web site (deanmacgregor.com), along with images of the sleepovers, he has written that the work is "non-disciplinary" and "not to be thought of" as performance or conceptual art. "The project is premise free," he wrote. "[T]he viewer must find their way intellectually." He plans on taking it to the Louvre next.

METRO

beer stash from past openings.

Dubitsky, a sculptor from Bushwick, said he was doing the project "for the food." His reward was a trip to Baltimore the next morning for soft-boiled eggs.

He brought his iPod, Douglas Copeland's "Miss Wyoming," a change of clothes, pastries and a notebook in which he wrote "part fiction, part fact about what

the experience felt like," he said the next morning.

"I was a little disoriented in the kind of way you are whenever you're in a new place. I heard noises. Then I realized it was the hundreds of dead ghosts of kids who died in a factory," he said with a laugh. Though Dubitsky didn't actually know the building's past, he knew the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911, which killed 146 young garment workers, occurred blocks away.

Artists Space gallery manager Hillary Wiedemann arrived at work at 10 a.m. to greet Dubitsky as he was packing up.

"This is not a place normally for sleep," she said. "But there is something magical about having a place to yourself. He's creating his own work. We'll go through the rest of the day without even realizing what happened."

Blogarithms

A look at the best and brightest blogs in NYC

Bob Dylan slept here

FEW BUILDINGS in New York have been home to as many stars as the Hotel Chelsea — Dylan Thomas, Bob Dylan and Dee Dee Ramone are just a few. But the hotel, which takes in tourists as well as long-term residents, has also been home to scores of lesser-known talents. Ed Hamilton, 45, and Debbie Martin, 46, write about Chelsea's various residents in their blog, Living With Legends (hotelchelseablog.com).



DYLAN

ple draw on that and it provides them with inspiration.

► **Who are "the core"?** Ed: They are people who haven't had much success but who have put up a valiant struggle to be true to their art. They never made any money but that wasn't what they were after.

► **What did they contribute?** Debbie: It's people like that who make possible the art of others who are more successful. There is a famous creative energy here and I think that the famous peo-

► **You've lived there since 1995. What's it like?** Ed: You never know what to expect. The last three people to have lived next door to us have been musicians. Bruno Wizard was a punk musician. The guy after him was a blues singer who was just incredible. He sounded like he should have made records and given concerts all over the place but he played on the streets. After that we had a classical violinist named Alan Grubner.

► **How do you get a room?** Debbie: [The landlord] Stanley Bard says it's as hard as getting into an Ivy League college. But if you



CONTRIBUTED

MARTIN, left, and Hamilton

want to try, bring artwork, bring a bag of money and talk to Stanley. It's strange some of the people who get in here. Some of them are artists and writers but a high number of others are just flat-out crazy people, so anybody and everybody has a chance. **PAUL BERGER**
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Paul Berger writes a blog called *Englishman in New York* at www.pdberger.com.