Letting sleeping artists lie

Project explores public space long after visiting hours are over

On MacGregor's Web site (deanmacgregor.com), along with images of the sleepers, 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. "[The viewer must] find their way intellectually. He plans on taking it to the Louvre next."

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

He brought his iPod, Douglass 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 Dubinsky 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 Dubinsky as he was picking up. "It's not like we have a place not a place normally for sleep," she said. "But there is something magical about having a place to yourself. We'll go through the rest of the day without even realizing what happened."

Blogarithms

Bob Dylan slept here

Dylan is a rockstar that people have the money but that wasn't what they were after.

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 people draw on that and it provides them with inspiration.

You've lived there since 1955. 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: They're all for rent. Stanley Bard says it's as hard as getting into an Ivy League college. But if you want to try, bring artwork, bring a bag of money and talk to Stanley. It's strange because some of the people. You 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