



## Dumbo is the new Soho-Part One

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by LA Slugocki

On February 5th, I attended Smack Mellon's Press Play First Thursday Series. Smack Mellon is a world class art gallery on the Brooklyn Waterfront, located on the corner of Washington and Plymouth Street. The closest train is the F, York Street, the first stop in Brooklyn.

It was scary cold outside, but inside of their newly renovated space, ceilings soared 35 feet--- very impressive, even stunning. 6,000 square feet with 25 windows on two levels, spells panoramic views in any language. Initially the blinds were closed and I thought, hmm, that's odd. So I turned my attention to Kirsten Hassenfeld's exhibit, Dans La Lune (shown in this photograph).

The atmosphere was moody and dark, the only real light coming from the sculptures themselves. They looked like pagodas, snow flakes, a constellation--- architectural and complex. Delicate yet eccentrically scaled. They were huge. They hung from the rafters on pieces of monofilament. Many of them were lit from within. Gorgeous, like the light of the moon.

At 7:00 p.m., with a cold Kelso lager in hand, a woman raised the blinds, the blue lights of the bridge and the river revealed, and the music began. Line C3 is four percussionists, previously in residence at Julliard. They were positioned alongside the art installation. They played a tabletop as if it was a piano. I watched an intricate choreography of hands, fingers, knuckles---the instruments. They scraped, knocked, clapped, and even turning the score became part of the concert.

Then the crowd moved to another location as a cellist began to play in a pool of light. After her solo, three violinists joined her; members of ACME (American Contemporary Music Ensemble). Their music was hypnotic, lush, reminiscent of Philip Glass and The Kronos Quartet. The overall aesthetic was a concert performed on the moon, by the light of the moon, on a cold, cold night.

Don't miss the next concert/exhibit at Smack Mellon. Enjoy live music, great beer and innovative art all under the same roof. In March they will present Holly Miranda, a singer with a hauntingly beautiful voice. This performance will pair up with a politically inspired site-specific installation by Blane De St. Croix and Carlos Matta.

Photo credit: ACME performance at Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY. Image courtesy of Smack Mellon