Rhonda Lieberman, Curator of “The Cat Show” at White Columns, Interviewed by Cats

On Thursday West Village non-profit White Columns opens its feline-themed group exhibition “The Cat Show” — featuring catty art and arty cats by more than 80 artists including Mike Kelley, Marilyn Minter, Kathe Burkhart, David Shrigley (perhaps culled from the series above?), Rob Pruitt, Richard Prince, Gus Van Sant, Cory Arcangel, Amy Taubin, Patti Smith, Rita Ackermann, and many more — curated by Rhonda Lieberman (whose work will also be featured). The artist-curatur recently chatted with Uni and Chloe Zola Volcano, the cultured cats behind the blog Shit My Cats Read, about the new show.

Responding to a question about the exhibition’s Cats-in-Residence program, which will be run by Social Tees Animal Rescue (on June 14, 15, and July 19 and 20), Lieberman offers a preview of the cat-driven programming. “They’ll do their purr-formance piece, like artists in residence, in a kitty playground we are installing in White Columns,” she told Uni and Chloe. “Meowrina Abramovic will be present, as well as Bruce Meowman, Manx Ernst, Frida Kahlico, and Jaspurr Johns.”

Asked whether there were any works of contemporary art better suited to cat play than a Donald Judd “stack” sculpture, Lieberman offered a few suggestions for deep-pocketed, cat-owning collectors. “Off the top of my head, my cats would love to scratch on Jackie Windsor’s big rope knot pieces; Frank Gehry’s corrugated cardboard furniture also would be a hit with the feline community,” she said. “Rudolf Stingel carpet pieces are great for cats. Kittens love climbing up fabric with their needle-sharp kitten claws, so any Christo piece would do!”

“The Cat Show” opens at White Columns on Thursday.

— Benjamin Sutton