

# NEW YORK OBSERVER

## *Art World News*

Novemeber 15, 2010

By Alexandra Peers

### The 60-Second Art World

**Winner of the Week:** Edinburgh. It was announced the city's huge annual Art Festival gets Róbert Wilson, of the WaterMill Center, as its chair of trustees this year. The man, famous for summer Hamptons events featuring Dita von Teese stripping on a trapeze swing, imported Buddhist drumming teams and elaborate masquerades, knows how to throw a party.

**Loser of the Week:** Cao Fei, a finalist for the Hugo Boss Prize, who was seen as having the inside track but lost out to Dusseldorf installation artist Hans-Peter Feldmann. The Guggenheim Museum prize, which has gone to artists like Matthew Barney and Tacita Dean in the past, comes with a \$100,000 check.

**Next Week's Best Party:** Rx Art's 10th-anniversary benefit, hosted by James Franco (oh, when will the backlash begin?) and DJ'd by Simon de Pury. It's Monday, Nov. 15, at the Art Directors Club. The group has a history of placing cutting-edge contemporary art in hospitals and health care facilities.

**What Everyone's Talking About:** Ai WeiWei. The Chinese artist and activist has been placed under house arrest in the wake of his refusal to cancel a party/demonstration that would have protested the government-ordered demolition of his studio. First reported by the artist on his popular Twitter feed, the action by the Chinese police has garnered worldwide attention and censure. —A.P.