

ARTtalk

Some Like It Hot

Pia Lindman's *Hybrid Sauna* is making a big splash at its New York premiere. Part of the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center's "Greater New York" show this month, the piece invites spectators to get swashed with a bucket of cold water. After a hot sauna. In the nude. In the public courtyard.

"Some bathers splash all over the place," says the Helsinki-born Lindman, 35, who wears a nurselike uniform on-site. "The audience gets wet, and I get soaked." She created the sauna to symbolize the physical alienation she feels in the United States. "In Finland, we are comfortable being naked together. You grow up having saunas," she remarks. In America, she "became self-conscious."

Melissa Feldman, an editor and designer, took the plunge during the show's packed opening. "It seemed a delicious opportunity to get naked in the middle of P.S. 1's courtyard, with thousands of people milling about," she remarks.

P.S. 1 employee Tamar Osorio has undressed three times. She hesitated at first because, she explains, "my body is not perfect." But after one spectator photographed her in the buff and another complimented her on her hips, she's a convert. "It was an adrenaline rush," she says.

—Valerie Kellogg



A P.S. 1 visitor gets splashed outside Pia Lindman's *Hybrid Sauna*.