

HAUTE HOSTESS

PARTY GIRL

ELYSABETH ALFANO SAYS
THE BEST CONVERSATIONS
HAPPEN OVER DINNER.

By Katie Anne Orr

One evening four years ago, **Elysabeth Alfano** hosted a neuroscientist, musician, author, ceramist and chef for an evening meal. “The chef created the food, the author read from her book, the musician had a guitar and, after a little wine, everyone broke into song,” she says. “It was the best dinner party I’ve ever thrown!” Voilà—a new career path was born. Now entering its third year, The Dinner Party has moved from Alfano’s dining room to City Winery. It goes something like this: A guest chef creates a meal for a monthly mishmash of celebrities of every stripe: quarterbacks, ballet directors, singers, cartoonists, film directors and comedians alike. Wine and unscripted conversation flow—and often, hilarity unfolds. Alfano hosts, and an audience of about 150 people, seated cabaret style, get to share the same meal. Cameras record the action and stream it live, and viewers can join the dialogue via Twitter. After years as an arts and culture journalist, gallery owner and producer for PBS, Alfano realized that she knew far too many interesting, creative people who should know one another. “I thought they would be inspired by what [one another] was saying. Many things we’re up against are the same,” she says. “Plus, I saw things changing so much in the social-media world. As connected as everyone thought they were, in actuality, they were becoming increasingly disconnected. So I decided to do something that brought them all together.” Care to hear Macy Gray croon up close and listen to Rick Bayless satirically read his recipe for watermelon-ginger guacamole while enjoying creme brulee? Here’s an event that satisfies your soul along with your hunger. Jan. 12, 7PM, \$45, thedinnerparty.tv

MEAL MAESTRO
Elysabeth Alfano brings
great minds to the table
for The Dinner Party.

FASHIONABLE ART

Strokes of Genius

His artwork hangs in many of the most prestigious museums in the world, and now **Hunt Slonem**’s fanciful paintings can be worn over the hearts and arms of his collectors old and new with the help of accessories brand Echo Design. The artist and company have teamed up to create a collection of six scarves and one tote, all with Slonem’s iconic subjects—birds, bunnies and butterflies—in his signature Technicolor palette. The silk twill scarf here, based on Slonem’s “Golden Butterfly” painting, is available this month exclusively at Bloomingdale’s stores nationwide. When we caught up with the artist, he said of the collaboration, “I am absolutely thrilled with this collaboration; we’re both overwhelmed with the results.” So are we. Bravo! —*Jacqueline Z. Grossnickle*



TAKE FLIGHT Butterfly Fields silk twill scarf, \$128, by Hunt Slonem for Echo Design at Bloomingdale’s, 312.440.4460

ELYSABETH ALFANO PHOTO BY ANTHONY TAHIER



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