

Radical Chic



Sylvia Rubin

"Paper" editor Kim Hastreiter at MAC boutique

The late **Geoffrey Beene**, one of fashion's most innovative and original designers, may have dressed the ladies who lunch and held his runway shows at the swanky Hotel Pierre in New York City, but he was a real rebel who loved the downtown art and fashion scene.

When he and New York's **Paper** magazine editor **Kim Hastreiter** first met, she was still putting out the hipster fashion 'zine on her kitchen table.

"He's shy, I'm so loud; I had no money, I had all these offbeat friends," Hastreiter recalled during a recent visit to **Modern Appealing**

Clothing (MAC) boutique in Hayes Valley -- the best place in town to find clothes by Belgian designers with unpronounceable names -- to sign copies of her new book, "Geoffrey Beene."

Mr. Beene, as she called him throughout their decades-long friendship that began in the mid-'80s and continued until his death in 2004, was "a control freak" and a total rebel when it came to design.

"His clothing could be very ornate or completely minimal; he'd pair lace with leather, polka-dots with plaids," she said. "He'd add tiny pockets to a big jacket. He'd pair Canal Street jewelry with his gowns," she writes in the book.

Published by **Assouline**, the book is full of beautiful pictures of Beene's remarkable work, with Hastreiter's astute commentary throughout.



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Ben, left, and Chris Ospital, the brother and sister team who run MAC.



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Dresses by Martin Margiela, left, and Dirk van Saene, right, at MAC.

The party attracted a hip crowd, including **Laura Wills**, owner of the New York vintage store, **Screaming Mimi's**; and other Paper magazine editors and writers. **Monique Jenkinson**, a loyal MAC customer said she didn't know that much about Beene, but, she said, "If I know Kim, she will turn the subject on its head."