WORK IN PROGRESS
HIGH TIME

BERNADETTE CORPORATION PREPARES FOR ITS FIRST RETROSPECTIVE, SPANNING NEARLY TWO DECADES OF COLLECTIVE ACTIVITY, AT ARTISTS SPACE

We were interested in having an image of us unpacking, because that's kind of what we've been asked to do. For dead artists, retrospectives can be straightforward affairs: bring in the historians and curators, translate and recontextualize, make things audience-friendly and newly digestible. Things are different when the artists are living, or almost dead but not yet ossified and rigid. Then there's a bit of unpacking to do, both the dangerously sentimental kind that happens when you come across an old Zip disk full of memories and the intellectual kind that follows the introduction of an odd statement into an otherwise familiar discourse. Bernadette Corporation's products range from an underground '90s fashion label to an early '00s video tract with Chloe Sevigny promoting Black Bloc anarchism to the multiauthored cut novel Reena Spaulings to a 130-page epic poem that combines intricately structured verses with pictures of skinny models in jeans.

How are we going to unpack that? BERNADETTE CORPORATION