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ART & DESIGN

10 Galleries to Visit on the Lower East Side

By **HOLLAND COTTER** APRIL 16, 2015

THE Lower East Side was once frontier territory, where new immigrants settled alongside poets and artists, punk musicians and anarchists, everyone needing rock-bottom rent. In the 1980s, the neighborhood soaked up some of the limelight trained on the East Village art scene, and began the slow creep toward gentrification. A decade or so ago, when art dealers started to set up shop below East Houston Street, a vague hope beat in the hearts of some observers that the neighborhood might be an alternative, in art and attitude alike, to Chelsea. I doubt anyone harbors that hope today. Mostly, the Lower East Side gallery scene is Chelsea with more storefronts and cheaper retail. Still, it has a certain margin of flexibility, and sometimes it uses it. And that's good to see.



CANADA

Talkative is certainly one way to describe painting these days, or at least a lot of the painting in this part of town, and you get a fair sense of this in the group show “Third Heat” [here](#). The four artists — Gina Beavers, Brian Belott, Annie Pearlman, Torey Thornton — work in different styles but have in common a love of what you might call the language of paint: building up surfaces, piling on colors, mixing modes (figurative, abstract). It looks like fun to do; beyond that passing impression, it interests me not at all, Ms. Beavers’s work being the exception: Her political wit and willingness to be gross hold great promise. (She makes a valuable contribution to another group, that one on view in the venerable [Abrons Arts Center at the Henry Street Settlement](#).)