

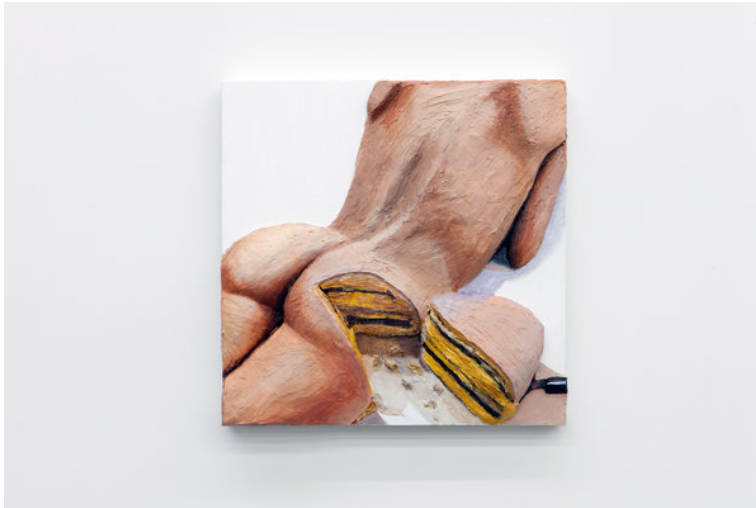
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ART & DESIGN

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](#).)