

The New York Times

Art & Design

10 Galleries to Visit in Chelsea

By ROBERTA SMITH

APRIL 16, 2015

NO gallery scene is static, but lately Chelsea's has been especially in flux.

Its maze of galleries — New York's most populous — now has the new Whitney poised on its southern edge. Yet towering apartment buildings are rising on nearly every block and rents are escalating, along with rumors. This makes it hard to tell what the future holds for galleries that don't own their spaces — which is most of them; already some have closed, others have merged or moved. And one of the anchors of the neighborhood, the commodious brick building at 548 West 22nd Street that once housed the Dia Art Foundation, and recently played host to art fairs, is now slated for development. And yet, the neighborhood can still feel like a perpetual art fair — in a good way — with galleries of all sizes and orientations sifting through past and present in exciting ways.

ALEXANDER GRAY ASSOCIATES

You don't have to be an unequivocal fan of Joan Semmel's work to be thrilled by [this small survey](#) of five decades of explorations of paint, the body and sex. Her fearlessness is the through line, starting with two abstractions from the 1960s whose muscular forms and brusque paint-handling are reinforced by dark, radiant colors. Next come images of coupling bodies loosely painted in bright colors. But most pioneering are those images that eliminate the outside observer, portraying the artist's reclining body, alone or with a partner, from her own point of view, which also becomes ours.