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ART & DESIGN

11 Galleries to Visit Now on the Upper East Side and in Harlem

By **ROBERTA SMITH** APRIL 27, 2017

Most of Manhattan's gallery neighborhoods are losing their shape as dealers pursue viable perches wherever they find them.

But no art neighborhood has quite the elasticity of what could be called uptown. By my measure — which isn't the only one, of course — it extends from 57th Street up the East Side into Harlem, ringing roughly half of Central Park. The concentration is shifting increasingly northward as the architectural ruination of West 57th Street continues to take out longtime gallery buildings.

Now, even with some major galleries between shows, there is great stuff to be seen along the entire route.

Upper East Side

ANTON KERN GALLERY Last weekend the Anton Kern Gallery, lately of Chelsea, unveiled its new digs on East 55th Street, which seems a world away from East 57th. Housed in a converted townhouse, it has a ground-floor space — an inviting rarity in these parts — with a Chelsea-like glass front. Both structure and address represent a big step for Mr. Kern, and befitting the occasion, they are being appropriately inaugurated with an excellent display of new work by the reserved yet soulful Polish painter Wilhelm Sasnal. Mr. Sasnal has found his own way to paint from photographs with a combination of blunt and tender brushwork. He moves effectively between the pastoral and the political, with small portraits of world leaders (mostly female and especially Angela Merkel) and larger scenes of protest, the United Nations logo on a television screen and also haunting landscapes, most of which suit the gravity of the times.



An untitled 2017 painting by Wilhelm Sasnal at Anton Kern.
Credit Philip Greenberg for The New York Times

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