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10 Galleries to Visit in Chelsea

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.

SEAN KELLY



Philip Greenberg for the New York Times

This gallery moved to splendid isolation just north of Chelsea — 10th Avenue, near 36th Street — three years ago when its West 29th Street space succumbed to development. The current show features the new work of Mariko Mori, best known for devising one of the first 3-D art videos, "Nirvana," which was seen at the 1997 Venice Biennale. Its goofy mysticism included the artist as an exquisitely turned-out, levitating goddess. Ms. Mori's latest efforts may be the dernier cri in both public plop-art sculpture and California Light and Space perceptual subtlety: Möbiuslike spirals and loops of fiberglass whose pearlescent surfaces blossom with color as you move around them. They're beautiful and cheesy in about equal parts, but their weightless perfection and fleeting rainbows are something to see.