

Gallery ROW

The fall art season has opened in New York with more than 300 Chelsea galleries competing for attention. Gallery Row, as it's sometimes known, stretches from 18th to 28th streets between 10th and 11th avenues and is a global center for contemporary art, home to the world's largest concentration of art galleries. In the late 1990s, the century-old buildings—remnants of a once-thriving industrial neighborhood, including turpentine distilleries—were converted into the pristine white cubes. Now, the likes of Mary Boone, Paula Cooper and Gagosian line the entrances while smaller independent galleries fill the floors above.

This charming neighborhood, with its skyline views, artist studios and gastro-chic restaurants, comes alive several evenings every month when the galleries welcome visitors to the opening receptions of new exhibitions. With a slight chill in the air, patrons roam from space to space as the large gallery windows spill warm light onto the sidewalks below. While sipping wine, visitors view cutting-edge contemporary art, congratulate artists and mingle with the elite of the art world. With so many cultural experiences in one location, a visit to the Chelsea galleries is certainly a feast for the senses.

Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; the galleries remain open until 8 p.m. for receptions. For a list of openings and exhibitions, visit chelseagallerymap.com.

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