Time Out New York

The complete weekly entertainment guide

October 17–24, 1996 Issue No. 56 $1.95

The other Chinatown
A taste of Taiwan in Queens

Lipstick
A gloss on the fall shades

Chelsea galleries
A tour of art's new hot spots



The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion!

NYC's best band?

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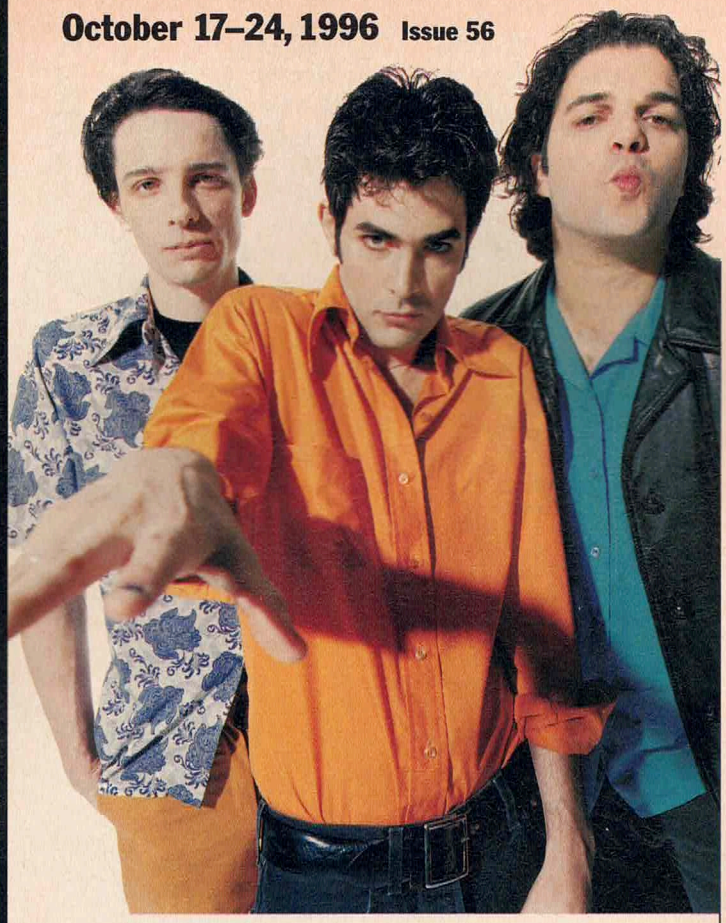
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TOP: PHOTOGRAPHED BY DWIGHT MARSHALL; BOTTOM: PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRANÇOIS DISCHINGER

October 17–24, 1996 **Issue 56**



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Sports A field of dreams sprouts in a Soho gallery.
Music Singer Jane Siberry floats into the Bottom Line.
Art Portraits of the artists: Lavine snaps '90s talent.

features

6 Even white boys get the blues

Jon Spencer Blues Explosion might be the coolest East Village export since, well, *Rent*. (Wait, make that *definitely* the coolest.) Just don't ask the boys where they hang their hat these days: "Shit," says guitarist Judah Bauer, "first I can't play the blues, and now I can't live above 14th Street!"

10 Target practice

Here's a live one: Jasper Johns hoists the flag at MoMA.

12 Come fly with me

Take one of these flights of fancy and view fall's final outbursts of color from on high.

14 The roaring twenties

With Soho slowly becoming the New York equivalent of the Mall of America, the galleries of west Chelsea are booming. Herewith, our walking tour.

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Page 6 **Blues brothers: The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, top. Page 14 Stairway to heaven? Gallerists migrate to Chelsea, above.**

Cover: Photographed by **Dwight Marshall** for Marek. Groomer: Chase Aston for Marek; Location: Sun Studios



O, pioneers! This page, from left, Chelsea gallerists Linda Kirkland, Andrew Freiser, Jessica Fredericks and Xavier LaBoulbenne; opposite, Paula Cooper.

The roaring twenties

Has Chelsea truly supplanted Soho as center of the art-scenester universe? Take our walking tour and judge for yourself.

By **Linda Yablonsky**
Photographed by **François Dischinger**

The New York art world is fueled as much by gossip as it is by commerce or aesthetics, and the summer's traditional lull in gallery activity hardly muffled the latest buzz: that far West Chelsea, an area bound by Tenth and Eleventh Avenues between 20th and 26th Streets, would soon end Soho's reign as the royal court of contemporary art. In the 28 years since Paula Cooper opened the first gallery in Soho, the onetime arts-dominated neighborhood has become overwhelmed by a high-rent, retail market, its streets clogged with film and fashion shoots, and shoppers more eager to buy shoes than paintings.

But can dealers in west Chelsea—a remote location better known for its warehouses, autobody shops and sidewalks inhospitable to pedestrian traffic—really put Soho off the art map? It's possible, but, for the moment at least, unlikely. For one thing, the people who originally attracted the art business to Soho—artists—don't live there. What's more, a new generation of Soho dealers [see box, page 17], many fresh from the employ of established galleries, have clustered in the somewhat retail-free area south of Broome Street. They welcome the walk-in traffic Chelsea dealers spurn—the browsers who experience art as the cultural equivalent of Sunday



school. And veteran Soho dealers contest the rumors of Soho's demise. Holly Solomon characterizes the northern end of the neighborhood where her gallery sits as a kind of Museum Mile. "What's going on here is very healthy," she says. "It's become like the Left Bank in Paris."

In the end, the art world's structure may be analogous to the movie industry's: Uptown corporate studios bear the names Gagosian, PaceWildenstein and Marlborough; major independents in downtown neighborhoods are surrounded by smaller, art-house upstarts and satellite fringe productions. Whichever neighborhood you prefer, there's no denying that the fall openings have brought New York a much-expanded and revitalized art world. Cooper threw open the doors of her new temple to minimalism on October 12, and in the next few months, at least a dozen other dealers will open galleries nearby. Saturday will likely continue to be the big day in Soho; Sunday will find the crowds in Chelsea.

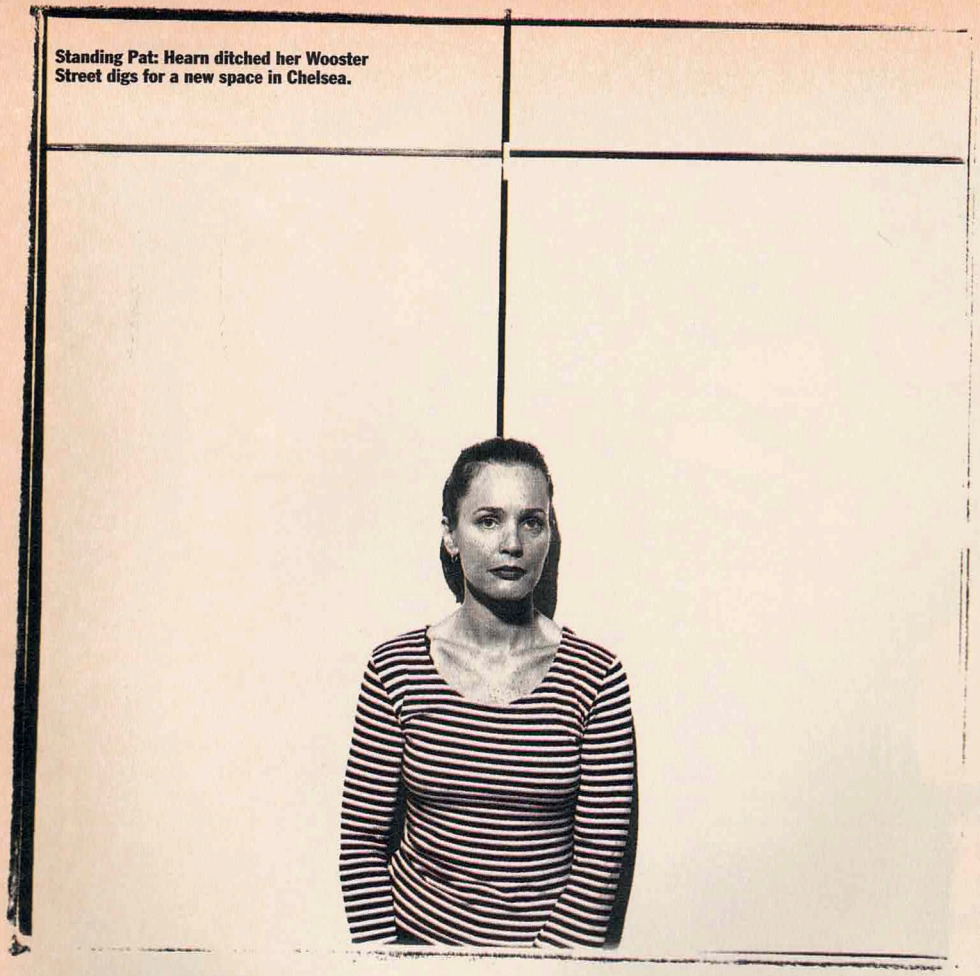
So get out your maps, your walking shoes—and perhaps your compass—because New York's incredibly expanding art scene probably isn't going to stop with Chelsea. As the ever-prescient Cooper observed, "One day, the meat market will be very beautiful."

548 West 22nd Street

The original art destination in Chelsea, the **Dia Center for the Arts** opened in 1987, on what Cooper calls "the Park Avenue of Chelsea." Dia also acquired two buildings across the street, one for storage and the other for the Arnulf Rainer Museum, which it is currently de-installing to create additional permanent exhibition space. The '96–'97 program includes the current show by Fred Sandback and a poetry reading program. *(989-5912, Thu–Sat noon–6pm; $3 admission)*

530 West 22nd Street

Paul Morris had been dealing out of his living room when he visited the tiny Marie-Puck



Standing Pat: Hearn ditched her Wooster Street digs for a new space in Chelsea.

Broodthaers gallery in Brussels and noticed the art-friendly crowds spilling over from a museum across the way. With partner Tom Healy, he found a similar setup between the Dia Center and Matthew Marks. Representing a mix of emerging and mid-career artists, the partners had the "limo crowd" from Marks and Dia help get their first gallery, **Morris Healy**, off the ground. "We really did feel like pilgrims coming over here," says Morris, calling the unusual coterie of the early West Chelsea settlers "a younger version of the Art Dealers Association." *(243-3753, Wed–Sun 11am–6pm)*

Morris and Healy divided the floor's 5,000 square feet with vanguard dealer **Pat Hearn**, whose six years on Wooster Street strained both her pocketbook and her patience. Hearn favors difficult, conceptual work, and, thanks to the low overhead, she's been able to develop "new markets for artists whose work requires an extended dialogue with the viewer." Hearn built her reputation by putting culture before commerce, but now says, "I love making money, and I love that it's part of the program." *(727-7366, Wed–Sun 11am–6pm)*

Annina Nosei, famous for introducing Jean-Michel Basquiat to the art world in 1982, took advantage of her Prince Street location by renting it to Prada for its Miu Miu shop last spring. She's moved her gallery into three luxurious exhibition rooms above Morris Healy and Pat Hearn. Gallery director Jason Prohaska says the new location has allowed Nosei to be "a lot more creative with the curriculum." Although she has traditionally stuck with painters, Nosei opened the season with a silvery, sound-soaked installation by Paul Miller (a.k.a. DJ Spooky), a master of ambient techno-funk. A harbinger of things to come? Maybe, but not soon. The next two shows return to painting: gallery favorites Manuel Ocampo (through November 7) and Stephen Mueller (November 12). *(741-8695, Tue–Sat 11am–6pm)*

525 West 22nd Street

Visitors to the aforementioned galleries have been watching the construction of the Spears Building across the street—the only area structure zoned as a mixed-use building. Developed by Savanna Partners' Christopher Schlank, Jonathan Leitersdorf and Philippe Weissberg, it will house 30 open-loft condos. "I think people want to be pioneers," says Schlank, adding that he's already had nearly enough offers to fill the building and hasn't even started advertising yet.

One of 525's ground-floor spaces will house Lisa Spellman's edgy **303 Gallery**. Being in Soho, says Spellman, "is like doing your homework with the TV on—you can't separate the static from the program." 303 will open with a show of new paintings by Sue Williams on November 15. *(966-5605, hours not yet determined)*

Next door is a new gallery founded by Christopher D'Amelio and Lucien Terras, two recent employees of Paula Cooper (yes, the art world is a very incestuous place). **D'Amelio-Terras** plan to open with an installation by Rei Naito the same day the 303 show debuts. The gallery will exhibit artists well-known in Japan and Europe but new to the U.S. D'Amelio whispers that they also have "a close relationship with Cady Noland, who's a free agent, and we plan to remain involved in her work." Another highly regarded Soho gallery is said to be negotiating for the third space in the building. *(387-8877, hours not yet determined)*

522 West 22nd Street, 513-515 West 24th Street

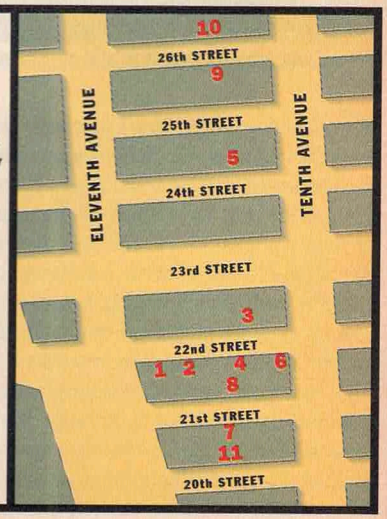
Three years ago, drawn by Dia's presence on the block and the need for a space that would allow him to show such monuments of Modernism as Ellsworth Kelly, Willem de Kooning, Brice Marden and Richard Serra, Madison Avenue's **Matthew Marks** took ownership of this former garage. Marks recently started construction on a new 10,000-square-foot duplex gallery on West 24th Street, the building he has divided equally with Soho veterans **Barbara Gladstone** and **Metro Pictures**. When the deal was announced last spring, wags dubbed the two-story 30,000-square-foot building "MGM." Designed by Bill Katz, the new Marks gallery is expected to open in November with "Open Secrets," a comprehensive show of photographs and works on paper by 60 artists from the 19th century to the present. His

Chelsea aborning

A guide to the new galleries

1.548 West 22nd Street
Dia Center for the Arts
2.530 West 22nd Street
Morris Healy
Pat Hearn Gallery
Annina Nosei
3.525 West 22nd Street
303 Gallery
D'Amelio-Terras
4.522 West 22nd Street
Matthew Marks Gallery
5.513-515 West 24th Street
Matthew Marks Gallery
Barbara Gladstone Gallery
Metro Pictures
6.504 West 22nd Street
Jessica Fredericks Gallery
XL-Xavier LaBoulbenne
Linda Kirkland Gallery
7.534 West 21st Street
Paula Cooper Gallery
8.521 West 21st Street
Paolo Baldacci Gallery
9.526 West 26th Street
Greene/Naftali Gallery
10.527 West 26th Street
TeamGallery
11.535 West 20th Street
Richard Anderson

Subway: C, E to 23rd St.



space on 22nd Street begins its season with a show of new Kelly paintings on October 17. *(861-9455, Thu–Sun noon–6pm)*

Gladstone seems anxious to move from congested Greene Street to the cool, art-specific environs of Chelsea. Her new gallery, which will open November 17, meets the same criteria that brought her to Soho 13 years ago: "a big space in an empty place." She'll be opening with a show by video artist Gary Hill, followed by the Russian-born Ilya Kabakov—a new addition to gallery standbys such as Matthew Barney, Richard Prince and leading lights of the Arte Povera movement. *(431-3334, Soho gallery)*

Helene Winer and Janelle Reiring will relocate Metro Pictures in early '97, and will open their third of MGM in several rooms designed by David Piscuskas. In addition to gallery stars like Jim Shaw and Cindy Sherman (whose fall shows will close out Metro's residence on Greene Street), the partners will introduce "a number of people who haven't shown before," which, Winer says, "is part of what makes this move very timely." Though Winer admits being bothered by "all those models walking around Soho," she says her move had more to do with wanting to own a building. *(925-8335, Soho gallery)*

504 West 22nd Street

The 1860 town house near Tenth Avenue has become the district's first live-in gallery building. With partner Andrew Freiser, **Jessica Fredericks** opened the 1,000-square-foot basement space that bears her name last March. After viewing hours, the thirtysomething couple pulls a bed out from under the storage racks. By day, they show a range of established, and emerging artists, mostly painters, who include John Wesley, Thomas Trosch, Brenda Zlamany and Kelly O'Bosky. The current show is by Dani Tull (their first "nonpainter"). Fredericks and Freiser hold monthly "collectors' parties" to cultivate a new generation of buyers "who have the means to collect and don't know how to go about it." *(633-6555, Wed–Sun 11am–6pm)*

On the parlor floor upstairs, the genial **Xavier LaBoulbenne**, former director of Max Protech Gallery, recently opened **XL**. He will focus on "emerging international artists working with multimedia," but will also feature such known quantities as Marilyn Minter, Ellen Cantor and Lawrence Weiner. Scheduled for October 19: fetish-collagist Pierre Molinier (currently enjoying a kind of vogue in New York) and Lovett/Codagnone, a collaborative team who combine technology and fashion. *(462-4111, Wed–Sun 11am–6pm)*

Linda Kirkland commands the third floor of this building, which she owns and developed with her husband. (They live on the top floor.) "We saw this as an opportunity for young people in the business to have a turnkey gallery space," she says proudly. *(627-3930, Wed–Sun 11am–6pm)*

534 West 21st Street

A longtime Chelsea resident, Soho pioneer **Paula Cooper** says she'd been looking to buy space in the neighborhood for years, so she could walk to work and have room to mount exhibitions that her Wooster Street gallery, with its wood floors and awkward columns, could not accommodate. The palatial new 6,500-square-foot space, designed by architect Richard Gluckman, has a street-level bookstore, mezzanine offices and a skylighted, atriumlike main gallery, with cement floors and exhibition wall space extending up to 18 feet. The wood-beamed ceilings (supported by gigantic steel trusses) peak at 40 feet. It opened on October 12 with "Prospective Retrospective," a museum-scale show of work by gallery superstar Carl Andre. Expect big things. *(255-1105, Tue–Sat 11am–6pm)*

521 West 21st Street

The **Paolo Baldacci Gallery**, long ensconced in the Fuller Building on 57th Street, has also moved into the neighborhood. The 4,000-square-foot gallery, designed by Galia Solomonoff, has two exhibition rooms and will open November 7 with sculptures by Saint Clair Cemin, Charles Long, Donna Moylan and James Hyde in the main gallery, and etchings by Giorgio Morandi in the other. Look for a future exhibition of work by Filippo de Pisis, a contemporary of Giorgio de Chirico, whose work is little known outside Italy and has never before been seen in this country. *(463-0919, Tue–Sat 11am–6pm)*

526 West 26th Street

When Soho's John Good Gallery went out of business, director Carol Greene looked at more than 50 buildings between 20th and 29th Streets for a space of her own. She settled on this enormous warehouse building that is already home to a number of well-known artists' studios, and bears the new name West Chelsea Arts Center. **Greene/Naftali** has a large space with terrific views—it's on the eighth floor. With her landlord's wife, Gloria Naftali, as a partner, she could take a few chances and, like other area gallerists, boasts that sales are three times higher than she expected. *(463-7770; Wed–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–6pm)*

527 West 26th Street

Jose Freire will soon emerge from the ashes of his Soho business as director of the new **Team**, a gallery he describes as "anticommercial." Located on the ground floor, the gallery is backed by an anonymous owner who wants it to remain "outside the usual structure." Team artists include multimedia chameleon Alix Lambert, whose new feature film exemplifies the gallery's focus on "special projects" that Freire says won't "depend on collectors" to keep it alive. On October 19, the gallery will open with large-scale color photos selected by Michael Lavine from his book of artists' portraits. *(279-9219, Fri–Sun 11am–8pm and by appointment)*

535 West 20th Street

Richard Anderson and several others will soon be moving into this blocklong warehouse, which painter-turned-realtor Anne-Brigitte Sirois is developing for the Lerner Group entirely as a gallery building. With 11 floors, typically housing two to four galleries per floor, it will be by far the area's largest art-dedicated structure. ■

Meanwhile, south of Pottery Barn...

Yes, there's still news in Soho!

The Soho Community Council estimates that ten museums and nearly 200 galleries have remained in the area, in spite of recent defections. The newer dealers represent mostly emerging talents, whose work has signaled a perceptible shift from object-oriented to project-oriented exhibitions. The following are worthwhile stops on any gallerygoer's art walk. (For subway information, see Art Listings.)

David Zwirner ***43 Greene St between Broome and Grand Sts.*** **This three-year-old gallery marks the spot that Soho's new dealers want to be near; shows here are usually must-sees.**

Deitch Projects ***76 Grand St between Wooster and Greene Sts.*** **In December, Jeffrey Deitch will inaugurate a 5,000-square-foot exhibition space at 18 Wooster Street, where he will present the New York debut of Korean artist Kody Choi, who will conjure Rodin's *The Thinker* in a Pepto-Bismol-colored sculpture series made of toilet paper. "I like work that doesn't take itself too seriously," says Deitch.**

Boesky & Callery ***51 Greene St between Broome and Grand Sts.*** **Patrick Callery says he "likes the idea of more of the general public seeing the work." His artists—nearly all women, mostly painters—subvert psychosexual taboos in refreshingly nonexploitative ways.**

Anton Kern ***558 Broadway between Prince and Spring Sts.*** **The son of artist Georg Baselitz, this Gladstone protégé presents installations by young American and European artists.**

Casey M. Kaplan and Lauren Wittels ***48 Greene St between Broome and Grand Sts.*** **These two engaging young dealers have moved up from microgalleries on Broadway to offer shows by such figure-dissing painters as Carl Fudge, who debuts at Wittels next month. The artists who excite Kaplan mostly hail from Los Angeles.**

Friedrich Petzel Gallery ***26 Wooster St between Grand and Canal Sts.*** **It's nicknamed "the morphing gallery," for its emphasis on the conceptual-based art of mutating forms.**

Basilico Fine Arts ***26 Wooster St between Grand and Canal Sts.*** **Currently, Basilico is the place for seductive forays into "relational art." This month, the gallery has a show of Matthew Ritchie's global "information narrative" project, *The Hard Way.***

AC Project Room ***15 Renwick St between Spring and Canal Sts.*** **This artist-run gallery's more remote location doesn't keep it from connecting to a mix of New York artists working in diverse forms. Intriguing cast-paper sculptures by Anne Chu will appear in October.**

Other new galleries Andrew Kreps, 580 Broadway between Houston and Prince Sts; Anna Kustera, 41 Wooster St between Broome and Grand Sts; Bronwyn Keenan, 494 Broadway between Spring and Broome Sts; and the project-oriented Lehmann Maupin, in a space designed by Rem Koolhaas, at 39 Greene St between Broome and Grand Sts.—*Linda Yablonsky*