

T MAGAZINE; Now Showing: A Brooklyn Donut

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Inexhaustible homesteading, subdividing, parceling and merchandising of neighborhoods is the lifeblood of New York. And as we all know, it's historically artists who first sniff out where the next great acronym will sprout.

With every last square foot of southern Manhattan long since optimized and Williamsburg and Bushwick well established as on the beaten track, could the next up-and-coming arts ward be ... the Donut District? Located in Brooklyn on the corner of Huntington and Clinton Streets, practically underneath the stretch of the Brooklyn Queens Expressway that separates industrial Red Hook from greater Carroll Gardens, the three artist-run spaces here named their micro-neighborhood after its commercial center: the off-ramp Dunkin Donuts across the street.

"It would have been really dangerous to try to do this this in Williamsburg," explained Jesse Greenberg, who runs the [gallery 247365](#) with MacGregor Harp, "because there it could have been overlooked as just another artist-run, popped-up space." Their February show was curated by Josh Kline and features his own work along with that of Debo Eilers, Lisa Jo and Amy Yao, and several other young artists whose sculptures and videos ruminate on contemporary topics ranging from the ups and downs of Selena Gomez and Demi Lovato's socially mediated friendship to the uniform of the downtown guy artist circa 2009 (the bedrock of which is the [Barbour](#) jacket).

Around the corner, Miles Huston and Jacques Louis Vidal operate [Know More Games](#), which is, according to Huston, "Not an art gallery. It's pretty liquid — it's just a room." Previously this room was part of a veterinary clinic, as was 247365, and during renovations the remains of a cat tagged "Lexus" was found ensconced in a wall. "This is not about the normal Manhattan convergence of A.D.D., socialite fear-of-missing-out," he added. What the coalition is about is the type of casual creative exchange more common in creative hubs outside New York, like Philadelphia or Los Angeles, where there is still a thriving artistic community, but along with it affordable spaces that allow a little breathing room from market-driven priorities.

One of Know More Games's recent events was a one-night "NPR Bar" featuring a wall of captionless New Yorker cartoons, abundant kale and a loop of the jingles that introduce programs like Fresh Air. This took place in the kitchen joining the two spaces, which fills up quickly during the monthly synchronized openings hosted with their other neighbor, [Primetime](#).


Overseen by Scarlett Boulting, Gary Fogelson, Meredith James and Ryan Waller, Primetime was the Donut District's first tenant. "We basically just give an artist the keys," said James of their tiny street-level gallery. In its first year, artists paid the rent on the space for the month of their residency/show and used it however they liked. Nowadays Primetime most frequently comes to life as an event space, and in the coming months the sculptor Pepe Mar, the poet Rachel B. Glazer and the gallerist turned photographer Mirabelle Marden will each take a turn holding the keys. "We don't really curate," as James put it. Waller clarified: "Or the curating happens when you're choosing your friends."

The three Donut District galleries are opening new shows tonight at 6 p.m.


This is a more complete version of the story than the one that appeared in print.


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