

The Lower East Side, Where Witty Meets Gritty

Chinatown Area

A few blocks west, Canada, which relocated from Lower Broadway after 9/11, is ensconced on the ground floor of a former brewery and run by a group of artists, including Sarah Braman, Aaron Brewer, Phil Grauer and Wallace Whitney. At the moment it has large watercolor, dye and ink paintings on paper by Anke Weyer, a young German artist who studied with Per Kirkeby; they are sort of opaque, with figures of women floating up from under a welter of abstract strokes. Mr. Grauer has transformed the smaller back gallery into a blank paper cave begging for some graffiti. (Actually, it has some.)

Although in place here for less than a year, Canada has already done interesting things — I'm sorry I missed Mr. Brewer's show earlier in the fall; which looks good in photographs — with more to come, including a solo by David Askevold, an American conceptualist now living in Nova Scotia. Carrie Moyer may turn up later on the schedule. Technically a for-profit space, it operates on a shoestring; and it is an example of what professional grit, and artists' collective determination to take the exhibition-and-sales game into their own hands, can do. More power to them.