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The Lower East Side as Petri Dish

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CANADA This 14-year veteran of these parts added the adjacent storefront to its [Broome Street](#) space in January, enabling a double bill of two vociferous solo shows that channel aspects of the art of the 1980s. In “Skin Game” in the main space, the maverick performance artist and erstwhile sculptor Michael Mahalchick riffs on appropriation and popular culture. His cheek-to-jowl hang of moldering collages inflicted on vintage rock posters is often darkly visionary. The chiropractor’s table at the center of the room serves Mr. Mahalchick in his performances, which will occur Friday evening and on May 1.

In the new adjunct space, Alicia Gibson is making her New York solo debut with “Purgatory Emporium,” a crowd of paintings that bedevil Neo-Expressionism and graffiti art with multitudes of words, brushwork and color. Some work better than others, with the emptier, quieter ones making the strongest impression, but there is no questioning the talent. Ms. Gibson intends to make her presence felt, and so far is not ruling out ranting.