11 Galleries to Visit Now on the Upper East Side and in Harlem

By Roberta Smith


Credit Philip Greenberg for The New York Times

Most of Manhattan’s gallery neighborhoods are losing their shape as dealers pursue viable perches wherever they find them.

But no art neighborhood has quite the elasticity of what could be called uptown. By my measure — which isn’t the only one, of course — it extends from 57th Street up the East Side into Harlem, ringing roughly half of Central Park. The concentration is shifting increasingly northward as the architectural ruination of West 57th Street continues to take out longtime gallery buildings.

Now, even with some major galleries between shows, there is great stuff to be seen along the entire route.

**Upper East Side**

**MNUCHIN GALLERY** In “Cindy Sherman: Once Upon a Time, 1981-2011,” a show organized with the independent curator Philippe Ségalot, three series from Ms. Sherman’s prolific career go head-to-head. They suggest an indomitable drive to reinvent her work while maintaining the variety and general ease of her landmark Untitled (Film Stills) series of 1977-80. Both her 1981 Centerfolds series, with its prone, vulnerable-looking young women, and her 2008 Society Portraits of scrupulously turned-out matrons feel somewhat repetitive here. In contrast, the History Portraits (1990) still disturb, with their cursory reprises of old master portraits of both sexes, replete with undisguised body and facial prosthetics. There are other notable Sherman series that remain startlingly rude. Too bad they weren’t chosen.