

i-D



ART

The gallerists redefining New York's evolving art scene

The city is home to a new wave of venues and roving spaces spearheaded by art lovers inspired — and brave — enough to forge a new path.

BY [SARAH MOROZ](#) | 19.5.23

[f](#) Share [t](#) Tweet [s](#) Snap

Ethan James Green, New York Life Gallery



What was the impetus for creating a new art space?

The gallery is next door to my studio, which has always been a space where people are constantly in and out, collaborating and talking about ideas. This atmosphere of collaboration and creativity inspired the desire to open an exhibition space.

What does your roster of artists reflect about the art world today?

In a departure from the standard gallery model, for now, we are not planning to have a roster of represented artists. In some ways, this could reflect an expanding desire to reimagine and evolve how the art world has traditionally been structured.

Regarding the architecture of the venue, how does the space lend itself to interesting scenographies?

The name New York Life Gallery was inspired by a large sign across the street that is visible from the gallery windows. The gallery is located on the top floor of a pre-war building in Chinatown with large skylights and windows, which gives the space a timeless New York character.



What are some of the upcoming shows to look forward to?

Our next exhibition, *Sleeping Beauties*, opens on May 19th. It is a curation of artworks, mostly paintings, spanning the 20th century. Some artists have been essentially unknown until now, and the absence of information about many of the artworks offers an element of mystery and a timelessness that traditional historiography often fails to include in its systematic genres. Our perspective is that this collection occupies a liminal space with works from the past that retain relevance even in a contemporary context.