

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now

Want to see new art in New York this weekend? Start in Union Square with Al-An deSouza's digital paintings of his father's belongs. Then head to Chelsea for Robyn O'Neil's graphite drawings. And don't miss Tyree Guyton's reincarnation of his Detroit-based "Heidelberg Project" in Chinatown.

CHINATOWN

Tyree Guyton: 'The Heidelberg Project, New York'

On view indefinitely. Martos After Dark, 167 Canal Street, Manhattan; 212-260-0670; martosgallery.com.



Installation view of "Tyree Guyton, The Heidelberg Project, New York City, Martos After Dark," 2022. Tyree Guyton, The Heidelberg Project, Detroit, and Martos Gallery, New York; Charles Benton

MARTOS GALLERY

Tyree Guyton came home to Detroit's McDougall-Hunt in 1986. The neighborhood — like many in the city's inner ring — has been gutted by decades of white flight and pointed neglect. Guyton cleaned up a string of fallow lots, then assembled the junk into bitter monuments of resilience. The resulting Heidelberg Project lines a long block with bleached mountains of shoes, harlequin tableaux of rusty cars and an acrobatic stack of shopping carts. Guyton's topsy-turvy paintings of clocks, some turned around or without numbers, dot the view like roadside Bible verses. "Time is running out," they seem to say: "Repent!" Bold designs cover nearby houses — some abandoned, but a few in solidarity with their residents against attacks from NIMBY arsonists and philistine politicians.

Gradually, the winds changed. Detroit's ruling class now see the value that public art and selfie-hunting tourists bring to real estate — or, less cynically, see art Guyton's way: as part of the blighted city's spiritual recovery. Today, Heidelberg Project enjoys official status. And Guyton is franchising: A corner storefront on Canal Street in Chinatown contains a slice of Heidelberg. Through the glass, blotchy, costumed mannequins sit around a cluttered table and a TV painted with the words "World New." A vacuum inhales an American flag. Clocks cover the walls. The domestic scene feels incongruous and vivisected at street level. Is this the neighborhood's past? Its future? Detroit? New York? The display advertises the larger project. It also invokes the specter of urban renewal in downtown Manhattan. Time, time, time ... *TRAVIS DIEHL*