

## 10 Galleries to Visit Now on the Lower East Side

By HOLLAND COTTER APRIL 26, 2018

Galleries, small and midsize, are having a rough ride. Rents keep climbing. So do art-fair fees. And certain people who might help pay the gallery bills — collectors, big-museum curators — keep not showing up except at a handful of spaces with social cachet and publicity machines. Plus, a sizable portion of the art audience has taken to doing its looking online, raising the question: Why have physical galleries at all?

Because they're the only places where you truly see new work, experience it. Scale, texture, light, air, mood; all that changes when you're physically present, shifting positions, moving in close, backing away, hearing noise from the street. Most of the galleries on the Lower East Side are still storefront-size, scaled for shopping, and open on Sundays. They put you in intimate contact with objects, sensations and ideas so you can examine them, stay with them, make them your own.



"Upon Leaving the White Dust," an installation by Cici Wu at 47 Canal on Grand Street

**47 CANAL** through May 27; 291 Grand Street, second floor, [47canal.us](http://47canal.us). The American artist and writer Theresa Hak Kyung Cha (1951-1982), one of the most intriguing figures of the 1970s, seems to have dropped from view for a younger generation. So it's great that Cici Wu, who was born in 1989 and came to the United States from China in 2012, pays tribute to her in a show, "Upon Leaving the White Dust," that sculpturally evokes a film, "White Dust From Mongolia," that Cha shot on a trip to her native South Korea and that was left unfinished when she died in New York City at the age of 31. Against a flickering projection of white light, Ms. Wu sets an assemblage of small objects that refer to images in the film: trains, an airplane, a mop, the silhouette of an urban skyline. "Memory, time, silence, words, and whiteness" were the essence of Cha's art, wrote the art historian Moira Roth, as they are of Ms. Wu's homage.