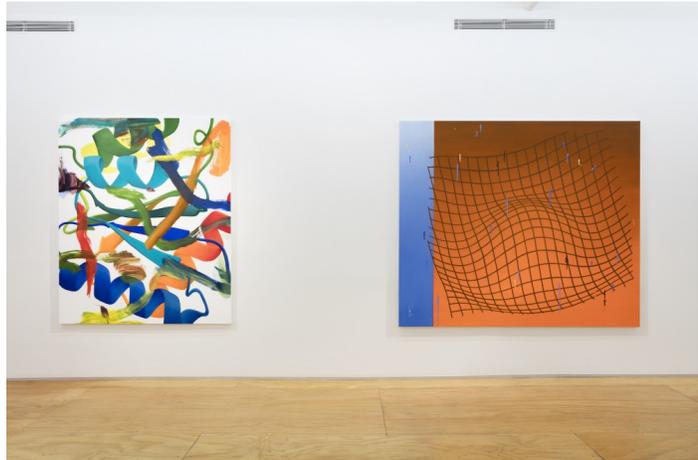


Now Showing on the L.E.S

Text by Molly Taylor

As a London-dweller, I'm told that there's no longer any debate as to whether New York's Lower East Side might be more than just second-best to Chelsea's first: it's now the place to see some of the best art in the city, shown in galleries whose ambitions aren't confined by their relatively smaller wall- and floor-space.

On Elephant's return to the city for 2016's The Armory Show, we spent a day discovering and rediscovering the now well-established array of galleries and exhibitions that are hidden in basements, on top floors above Chinese restaurants, and pretty much anywhere dismissed by the local hospitality industry. Here are some of our favourites:



Bathers installation view

Gregory Edwards, *Bathers*

47 Canal, 291 Grand St, 2nd Floor, NY
26 February – 3 April

Edwards' paintings exist in the kind of cyberspace jamboree that one imagines going on in the back of those old Apple Macintoshes: the editions with the multi-coloured monitor covers. Because though somewhat abstract, their brightly-coloured, sometimes garish forms do seem to directly reference the computer: there's download arrows, data webs, repeated symbols of the earth that we've come to associate with browser logos. That these seem to offer clarity when viewed from a distance or together – a political clarity, I initially conceived; fuelled by a sincere engagement with technology and globalisation – is merely a mirage. Edwards insists that 'these are not real objects' – that their positioning on the canvas as absurdly micro or macro versions of themselves defies logical comprehension.



Bathers installation view