

Gwyneth's Full Brew

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Gallery and Coffee Hopping: a Day Out on Orchard Street



Figure 1 Tête (Cardinal), oil on canvas 30" x 30", 2014 in "Outer Limits", recent paintings by [Deborah Brown](#).

This winter just doesn't quit! Who can remember so many snow storms and icy days in Manhattan? Certainly not my children, aged 18 and 10, as they trudge off to school through yet another blizzard.

I have been pretty much in hibernation since the New Year, not really venturing further from home than my art studio on West 39th Street, 8 blocks away. Actually, this studio-bound period has been a boon, resulting in a push forward into new ideas, tying some cup artworks back to paintings even as I open others up and reconfigure them into sculptural forms. Are they maquettes for monumental works to come, or will they exist as the kind of small scale artwork that draws the viewer close and fills a whole field of vision?

Finally last week, a break in the weather inspired me to head by subway to what is, hands down, my favorite art destination in Manhattan: [Orchard Street](#) on the Lower East Side. Orchard Street has traditionally been known as a place to buy coats or men's hats, but it has been in transition for years now. You can still get the coat, or even work uniforms, but from Canal to Houston Street it has become a mecca for those in search of intriguing art exhibitions and awesome coffee.

On this particular day, I hopped between coffee bars and galleries the length of the street and had some great conversations along the way. Lesley Heller, of [Lesley Heller Workspace](#) at #54, talked to me for some time about Deborah Brown's exciting and vibrant new painting show, "Outer Limits". She also made some excellent coffee suggestions: Lost Weekend at #45 for bracing, locally roasted coffee, as well as Roasting Plant, #81. She proposed I check out Whynot, a new open at #175, which was to be my last stop of the day.



Lesley Heller in front of
"Tête (Mariana of Austria)" 2013
oil on canvas 48" X 48"
in "Outer Limits", recent paintings by [Deborah Brown](#)
[Lesley Heller Workspace](#), #54 Orchard Street.