

*Saturday, May 10, 2008*

**CULTURAL TOURISM: SMALL GALLERIES, BIG BUZZ IN NEW YORK**

## Art crawl in the budding Bowery

When the New Museum of Contemporary Art moved in, some artists sighed at the inevitable spike in rents. But the Bowery's gentrification hasn't squeezed bohos out quite yet. Five small galleries opened their doors in the past year. And as Donna Tillotson reports, their curators are not only drawing celebrity collectors such as Marc Jacobs and Matt Dillon, they're earning critical cred with cutting-edge exhibits

### **NICELLE BEAUCHENE GALLERY**



**Doors opened** April, 2008

**Critical cred** Director of Chelsea's Perry Rubenstein Gallery and curator at Marianne Boesky Gallery, Nicelle Beauchene decided to move east to open up her own space. With free rein to curate as she pleases, Beauchene has developed an unintentional focus on female artists, something she says is unique to her gallery. "I really liked the neighbourhood. It's much more friendly and young than the white-box galleries of Chelsea," she says.

**Gentrification index** An outsider to the outsider art scene, Beauchene holds the title for the most eastern gallery of the Bowery cluster. Other galleries are looking to locate farther toward the East River this September, Beauchene says, but for now she is leading the exploration.

**On the wall** The gallery's inaugural show, Louise Despont's *the Plant Life of Saints*, runs until June 8. Her paintings are inspired by the work of Swiss artist, researcher and natural healer Emma Kunz, who used a pendulum to paint large-scale monographs. Despont's exhibition includes drawings and sculptures of shapes and forms expressed through rhythms, measurements and a sparse sense of geometry.

**The details** 163 Eldridge St.; 212-375-8043; <http://www.nicellebeauchene.com>.