

EXPANDED GALLERIES PART II

Confirming the recent trend of galleries opening second branches, a new army of dealers is preparing the next season with a double, sometimes triple, exhibition program.

The first gallery that deserves to be mentioned is the New York-based gallery Taxter & Spengemann. Back from their European breakthrough with Adam Putnam at the last edition of Art | Basel Statements, Kelly Taxter and Pascal Spengemann - who were school mates at Bard CCS - will open another splendid new space in New York. Premiered by the summer show entitled "Union Square" at the Chelsea gallery on West 22nd street, the new space is at 123 East 12th Street between 3rd and 4th Aves (right next to Union Square), which served for many years as Frank Stella's studio. As heralded by the mysterious press release for "Union Square," in "this place there are sturdy steel pegs jutting from the unfinished brick walls, which once held aluminum monstrosities." After the grand opening in Union Square - a solo show by Matt Johnson scheduled for November - the space in Chelsea will be shared with Andrew Kreps to develop a new and exiting gallery joint venture.

Godfather of this new marriage is Czech artist Jiri Kovanda, who will baptize the new deal with a solo show.

From a very American affair to a global enterprise: on September 18, Aicon Gallery, founded in 2000 by brothers Prajit K. and Projjal Dutta as the first online gallery of Indian art based in the US, will relocate the New York space from the Flatiron District to the promising Lower East Side; working in parallel with the branches in Palo Alto and London, the new gallery, which is located in a storefront at 33-35 of Great Jones Street, is a two-storey, 2.4384-square-meter space designed by Noby Arai. The inaugural exhibition, "The Ghost of Souza," will celebrate the career of Francis Newton Souza (1924-2002) through a grand opening featuring a performance by Indian Fusion-Rock instrumental band Indian Ocean.

These expansions are just a small selection: Barbara Gladstone just opened a second gallery in Chelsea with a double show by Anish Kapoor, with a new branch also opening very soon in Brussels; the Belgian capital has also long been on the radar of Parisian Almine Rech; Rech will open her Belgian gallery space at 20 rue de l'Abbaye in a 1000-square-meter space in the center of Brussels. The space will inaugurate on October 12 with a show by Anselm Reyle, who decided to keep the space in its original rough and industrial condition.

Back to the Big Apple and 303 recently organized an amazing party in a huge space located on 547 West 21 Street, which will very soon be the second branch of the gallery opened by Lisa Spellman 25 years ago at the 303 of Park Avenue South (which then moved to 89 Greene Street in Soho). The new space, which is one block over from the actual gallery headquarters on West 22nd, will open on September 20 with a Doug Aitken double show spread out in the both the spaces.

After New York, Berlin is shaping itself as a new promising venture for young and more established gallerists: in October, Cologne-based and Kippenberger companion Gisela Capitain and New Yorker Friedrich Petzel - who have shared their booth at Art | Basel | Miami Beach since the first edition - will start a joint venture under the name of Capitain & Petzel. The gallery is at Karl-Marx-Allee 45 in one of the historical modernist buildings in Berlin Mitte. Miami aside,

this new collaboration comes very naturally, considering that Capitain and Petzel are currently sharing an amazing roster of artists, consisting of Charline von Heyl, Wade Guyton, Georg Herold, Seth Price and Steven Prina. It's the same story for Prague's king Jirí Svetská, who will open a new branch in the German capital the same month.

Among these powerful dealers is Prato-based alternative gallery Project Gentili, which is preparing a group show entitled "Pole Shift," to be exhibited in a temporary space in Berlin right before the city fair Artforum Berlin, which, according to the Baer Faxt, has recently received a 100,000 euros contribution from an auction house.

Speaking of Italians, there's great curiosity regarding the new space of Massimo De Carlo in London, whose promises include a new program and new gallery staff, though nothing has been confirmed yet except that the brand new gallery will open sometime in 2009. Another very ambitious Milanese gallerist opening in London, in January, is Nicolò Cardi, son of Renato Cardi, and owner of two gallery spaces located in the luxury hearth of the city, one in Corso di Porta Nuova and another one in Piazza Sant'Erasmus. From January 2009, the young heir will manage the bigger space in Corso di Porta Nuova and a new space in London, with both of them called BLACK BOX and under the artistic direction of Sarah Cosulich Canarutto, former assistant of Francesco Bonami at the 2003 Venice Biennale and curator at Villa Manin. These newcomers confirm London as a stable market epicenter, as already demonstrated by Yvon Lambert, who after his second branch in Chelsea, is currently planning the inaugural exhibition of his new space located in Jay Jopling's kingdom, Hoxton Square, with a solo show by Carlos Amorales due to open the next October.

Nicola Trezzi

Taxter & Spengemann www.taxterandspengemann.com

Art I Basel www.artbasel.com

Andrew Kreps www.andrewkreps.com

Aicon Gallery www.aicongallery.com

Barbara Gladstone www.gladstonegallery.com

Almine Rech www.galeriealminerech.com

303 www.303gallery.com

Gisela Capitain www.galerie-capitain.com

Friedrich Petzel www.petzel.com

Capitain & Petzel www.capitainpetzel.de

Jirí Svetská www.jirisvestka.com

Project Gentili www.projectgentili.it

Baer Faxt www.baerfaxt.com

Massimo De Carlo www.massimodecarlo.it

Cardi www.galleriacardi.com

Yvon Lambert www.yvon-lambert.com