

# The New York Times

## ART & DESIGN

### 10 Galleries to Visit on the Upper East Side

By **HOLLAND COTTER** APRIL 16, 2015

IN terms of New York City gallery history, the Upper East Side, roughly from 57th Street northward, is the establishment, the old regime. Galleries that put the city on the international map in the 1950s started here. Several of our big museums call this turf home. So do several of the elite contemporary galleries that now serve as feeding tubes to those museums.

True, there have been some shake-ups. A few young dealers have recently moved in; and a major museum, the Whitney, has moved out. But in true establishment spirit, many of the exhibitions on view at the moment are of artists in mid- or late career, and heading toward, if they haven't already achieved, classic status...



... You wait for the work to turn sentimental, but it doesn't. It's too strange...

## TILTON GALLERY

That's pretty much also true of the ceramic-based sculpture of the New Yorker [Simone Leigh](#) at [Tilton Gallery](#). A 2010-11 artist in residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, she makes references to African art and African culture but keeps nudging the images in an abstract, design-intensive direction: Josephine Baker's banana skirt becomes a gilded porcelain chandelier or maybe a circlet of chimes; the steel hoops of a 19th-century skirt doubles as a domed village hut; female coiffures made of cowrie shells and rose petals are at once as natural and as sculptural as those photographed by the Nigerian artist [J. D. Okhai Ojeikere](#). In Ms. Leigh's work, organicism is an aesthetic category.

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