



## Where the Art Is

NOVEMBER 14, 2008 | BY MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

Art galleries, like birds, have traditionally flocked together.

At least in the Washington area they have, where neighborhoods such as Dupont Circle and Seventh Street NW were not that long ago known for their tightly concentrated pockets of art, participating in monthly art walks in which visitors would stroll from venue to venue, sipping wine in plastic cups. There's strength in numbers, or so the thinking goes, especially in tough economic times.

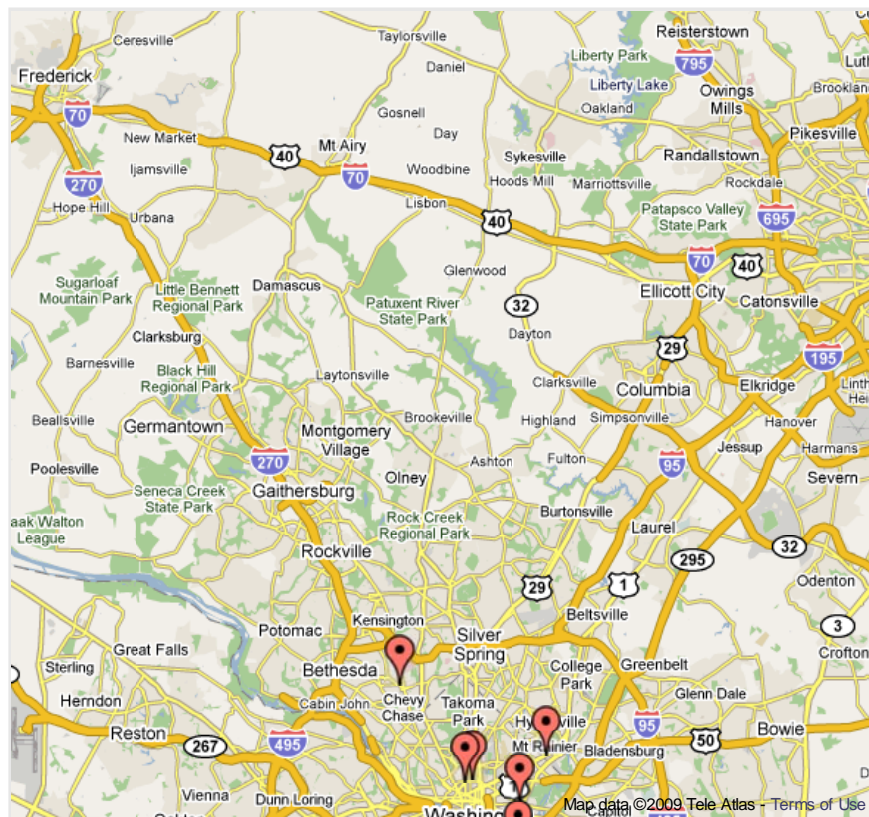
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Today, those two areas are on the wane, with the gallery district of 14th Street NW (Adamson Gallery, Curator's Office, G Fine Art, Hemphill Fine Arts, Irvine Contemporary, Randall Scott Gallery, Transformer and Plan B) in ascendancy.

Not every gallery, however, chooses to follow the crowd. Conner Contemporary, for example, pulled up its Dupont Circle stakes, opening a new space in Northeast Washington last month, not far from the H Street entertainment corridor. The only other gallery nearby? The appropriately named Dissident Display, which opened in 2006.

See, politicians aren't the only ones who seek the maverick label. Here, we profile 10 art spaces that—whether by virtue of geography or philosophy—have separated themselves from the herd.

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# Hamiltonian Gallery

1353 U Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-332-1116

» [Web site](#)

**NEIGHBORHOOD:**  
U Street/Cardozo  
**TYPE:** Gallery

## Overview



Mark Finkenstaedt for The Washington Post

One part gallery dedicated to innovative works, and one part educational program for emerging artists.

[Read Editorial Review](#) »

## The Buzz

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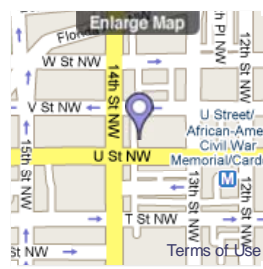
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## Location



Map data © 2009 Tele Atlas

## Event Calendar

6/24 - 8/1 **New. (Now).**

Hamiltonian introduces its five new fellows with this group exhibition. Opening reception: 7-9 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

## Editorial Review

### Where the Art Is

Area Galleries Find New Homes in Unconventional Spaces

By Michael O'Sullivan

Washington Post Staff Writer  
Friday, November 14, 2008

It's a little hard getting a handle on exactly what Hamiltonian Gallery is.

Yes, it looks like a traditional art gallery. But it's also part of an innovative educational program created by founder Paul So to foster professional career development for a rotating roster of 10 artist "fellows" -- that is, emerging artists who are given an annual stipend of \$2,000, guaranteed exhibition opportunities and the chance to learn about making it in the art biz through a program of lectures, critiques and mentorship.

Gallery director Jackie Ionita compares it to finishing school. So likens it to the kind of post-graduate seminars he remembers from his training as a physicist. What will the public see? A series of shows, each of which features a kind of behind-the-scenes matchmaking. Every month, the front of the gallery will be devoted to the work of an established "mentor" artist, with the back reserved for fellows whose work in some way plays off the art up front.

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