

# downtown express

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downtown express

## Downtown multipurpose art galleries abound

### ART

#### STEVEN AMADEE GALLERY

Ken Wong / Ethereal Landscape Photographs

41 North Moore St.

Until December 30

212 343 3596

#### A TASTE OF ART

Food Art Group Show

Burr Dodd, Alison Wehler, Mimi Oka &  
Doug Fitch, Virginia Sommet

147 Duane St.

Until December 15

212 964 54 93

For Current info www.atasteofart.com

#### BY WICKHAM BOYLE

TribeCa is getting a new feeling, a new rhythm. There are sumptuous home decor stores on nearly every corner featuring couches so lush and snugly they may replace spouses. There are lamps with jeweled bases and curvilinear pillows, candles and throws, somehow Tribeca has become the place to get upscale cozy. And as a further accompaniment to that well-designed feeling the galleries are increasing.

A new gallery housed in a frame store in at 41 North Moore Street, Steven Amadee and his exuberant gallery, has taken a small, narrow space and redesigned it so



A visitor to "A Taste of Art" Gallery on Duane Street, observes a piece of hand-blown "sugar glass" made with real sugar. The piece is by Burr Dodd.

*Illustration: Express photo by Elizabeth Bares*

that it appears nearly reflex in its open possibilities. The store is where one would take your finest paintings or a photograph that you want to refurbish or preserve.

Maybe all the scrutiny necessary to frame fine photographs rubbed off on Amadee because the shows he has executed this fall were of such finely detailed photographic art that one nearly gasps when walking in. His current show is called "Ethereal Landscapes" by Ken Wong and to say that these are black and white photographs does them a disservice; they are silver, gray, smoke, moss, stark white, shimmering gold, sepia and soot. The land-

scapes span geography from Bataai to Brazil, Yellowstone to Fort Tryon Parks.

Ken Wong prints his own work and some of the larger pieces are taken from the original work done on a Roliflex camera from the forties and retouched digitally; these prints are then reprinted on water-color paper. The result requires a careful eye to detect the image looking for brush strokes because the result is so painterly. The works are, of course, shown exquisitely framed and the prices are quite reasonable making this the place to go for an anniversary or holiday gift when what you are looking to elicit is a gasp. The show runs until December 31.

Further downtown there is another dual purpose gallery called, "A Taste of Art." It has been at 147 Duane Street for nearly two years and according to the French owner and curator Mr. Lawrence Amstad, "I opened at the worst time at the worst spot. I opened in December 2001, near Ground Zero. So it will be two years we are here next month, but we are committed to staying downtown."

The gallery has shows of contemporary artists with an accent on photographers and illustrators. As an aside there is also a small selection of fine chocolates, candy and a bar.

At the opening this week, of the current

show called FOOD ART there was a bar sporting alcoholic, zero alcoholic, and the art was eclectic. There were hand blown sugar globes in the window done by Burr Dodd. There other worldly creative cuisine visions of a candy factory in Venice where the glass and spun sugar strings. There are large-scale patches of hanging Chinese ducks and birdies done by Alison Wehler and Virginia Sommet has made collages using mini croissants, multi colored Italian candy featuring the Hindu goddess Laxmi and a pyramid made from macadamias.

My favorite food artists (only in NYC) are one enter that phrase) are Doug Fitch and Mimi Oka. Harvard grads who have been working together for decades. They both have self portraits made from hand rolled and, optically colored pasta. These dried noodle look as if they were strewn haphazardly into Plexiglas boxes and one backs up and the gentle vixen really appears. There is also a video of a Fitch-Oka feast done last May downtown and a photograph now waterlaved onto wood where diner guest's heads peep through a table filled with food.

All the artists in the show have a fascination for food, and they all express a vivid creativity through many different mediums. You may leave hungry but you won't be unsatisfied.



Light up someone's life...