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Now on display

Condo developments all over the city are starting to feel like art galleries

By JENNIFER CEASER



Painter Corinne Ulmann's dramatic murals at 53rd Street and 10th Avenue are hard to miss.

Griffin Court, 800 10th Ave.

Some artists hit the big time, but for Brooklyn-based painter Corinne Ulmann, “big” took on a literal meaning. Today, her mural — one of 50 designs submitted for the Griffin Court Mural Design Competition in April 2009 — covers two outdoor walls and is one of the largest in New York City. The mural on 10th Avenue measures 4,700 square feet, the smaller 53rd Street one that faces it is 1,800 square feet — and both depict a pattern of trees meant to evoke the condo’s private courtyard and the nearby DeWitt Clinton Park.

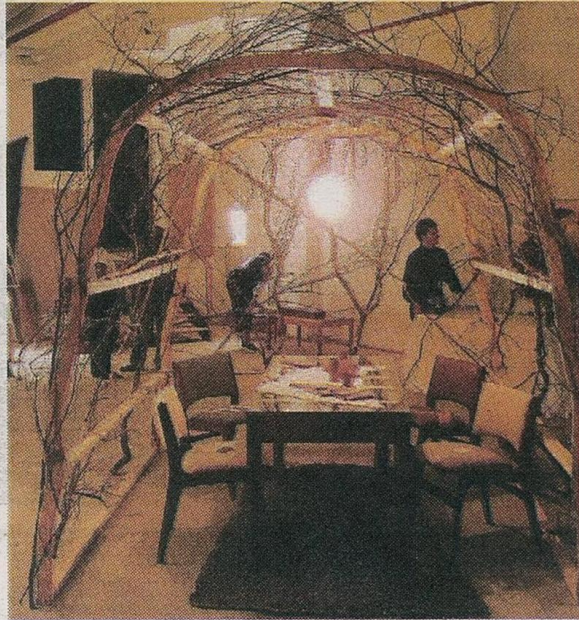
“Not only does the mural enhance the courtyard for our residents, but it also adds a wonderful aesthetic for the whole neighborhood to enjoy,” notes Ken Horn, president of Alchemy Properties, which developed 95-unit Griffin Court.

Studios to three-bedroom condos range from 636 to 1,829 square feet and are priced from \$735,000 to \$3.86 million.

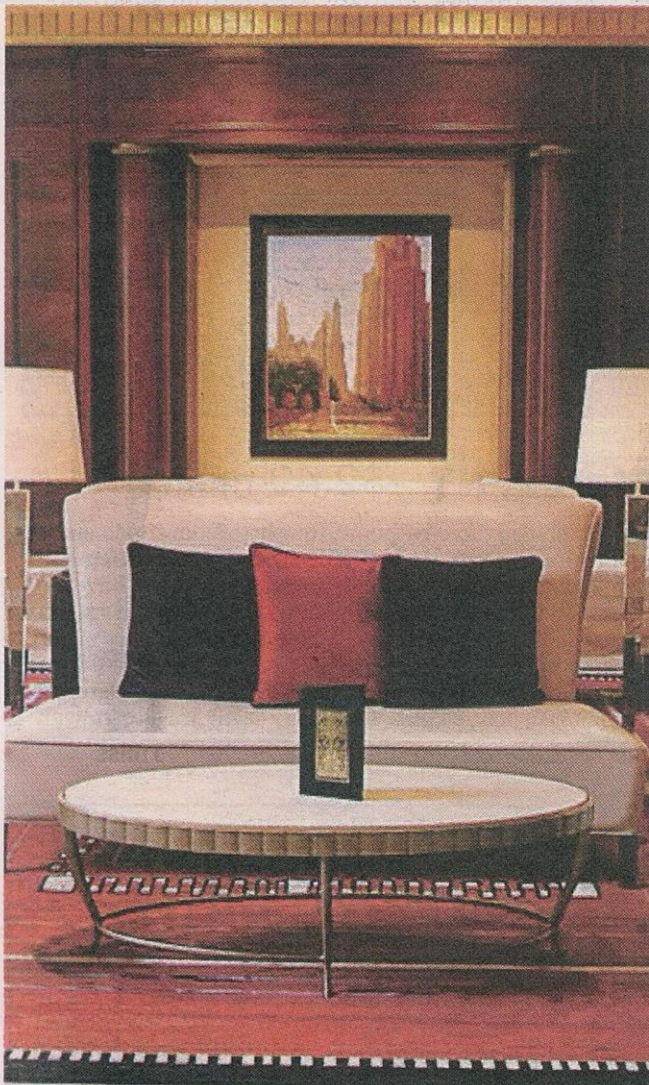
**Be@Schermerhorn, 189
Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn**

If residents at this Downtown Brooklyn condo building need to do some holiday shopping, they need only to head to the ground floor. In the 4,000-square-foot retail space, they'll find Nightwood Design's pop-up studio and store, which stocks handcrafted, recycled furniture, textiles, lights, artwork and more by local Brooklyn artisans. (It will be open through Dec. 14.) And over the first two weekends in December, a holiday market takes over the space, with a carefully curated selection of gifts that promises to be anything but average.

Be@Schermerhorn offers 246 studio, one- and two-bedroom residences ranging from 444 to 1,037 square feet, with prices starting at \$265,950 for studios, \$297,375 for one-bedrooms and \$498,750 for two-bedrooms.



The Nightwood Design pop-up space burns bright.



Painter Mark Innerst created a view of 59th Street looking east.

**Jumeirah Essex House,
160 Central Park South**

One of the only NYC buildings to have a curator on staff, the Jumeirah Essex House — with 515 hotel rooms, 35 residences and Kerry Heffernan's South Gate restaurant on the ground floor — has what one might call an intense commitment to the arts.

It starts with the common areas, in which hang works by Korean photographer Atta Kim and landscape painter Mark Innerst, both commissioned by curator Katherine Gass. In the lobby gallery are pieces by graduates of the Artist-in-Residence Program, who get inspiration from the building and its environs.

Gass, who attends art fairs around the world, chose for the latest exhibit Alison Wright, whose series of portraits of people from remote cultures is on view at South Gate through the end of the year. (The Essex House is also the official hotel sponsor of the Armory Show.)

Being surrounded by all this lovely art doesn't come cheap — condos average around \$2,200 per square foot. Resale units include a 724-square-foot one-bedroom for \$849,000 and a 1,223-square-foot two-bedroom for \$5 million.

+aRt, 540 W. 28th St.

No surprise that in a neighborhood dense with galleries, in a new condo building named +aRt, you'd find a space showcasing emerging artists. Until its ground-level retail is rented, the Chelsea building's 1,800-square-foot storefront is being used for exhibitions, the third of which opens today. Called "An Island Now Peopled," the show's focal point is a large-scale wooden sculpture built entirely from reused, donated and found materials; visitors are welcome to climb onto and inside the piece. It's on view through Saturday, Dec. 11.

Says Erik Ekstein, principal of Ekstein Development, which developed +aRt, "We hope to have an art gallery in the retail space permanently and know that the community's support has been a great indicator that a gallery would be a success in this location."

Of course, the hope is that visitors to the pop-up gallery might stumble over to +aRt's sales office and take a look-see at one of its 91 units. They range from studios to three-bedrooms, measuring 445 to 1,570 square feet, and are priced from \$490,000 to \$2.3 million.



The opening of +aRt's Carnivora exhibit this fall drew a crowd.