

# A REAL HOME FOR ART

by Megan Doll / GSAS '08

Not known for its art scene, the Upper West Side is nevertheless where Susan Eley (STEINHARDT '91) decided to open her eponymous art gallery in 2006—in the town house where she lives. “I wanted more of a home environment, something more intimate,” Eley says of the salon-style setting, where the former professional ballet dancer acts as an articu-



late yet approachable Virgil, guiding visitors through the often intimidating world of contemporary art. “I wanted to be a gallerist who could really offer service, so everybody who walks in here gets me full-on.”

Averaging five to six exhibitions a year, Eley’s gallery offers an eclectic stable of early- to mid-career artists, from North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Her mission also includes facilitating in-depth discussions about the art being displayed. A 2007 show, for example, which was titled “Europe Redrawn” and exhibited the photography of Jay Hochheiser, also featured a talk from critic Stephen

Perloff, the founder and editor of *The Photo Review*. “The average person tends to stay in a gallery for half an hour, 45 minutes,” Eley says. “I really want people to come in and stay and have a cup of coffee and ask questions.” ■

PHOTOS: TOP © MARIA PASSAROTTI; BOTTOM COURTESY SUSAN ELEY FINE ART



SUSAN ELEY'S UPPER WEST SIDE GALLERY OFFERS FIVE TO SIX CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS EACH YEAR.