

## No-Man's land for art



Minerva Gueuero views artwork at Alianza Dominicana in Washington Heights. Photo by Enid Alvarez/Daily News

### Inspiration, support and show fill a northern Manhattan nabe

BY KEREN SCHULTZ  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

LIKE THE ACRONYM for its downtown artistic counterpart, maybe this stretch of northern Manhattan will soon be called NoMan.

As SoHo and its environs spurred early art movements, artists taking advantage of lower rents in northern Manhattan are now finding more places in their nabe to nurture their talents.

Recently the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance formed as an umbrella for local art organizations, many of them sponsors of

the fifth annual Uptown Arts Stroll, a 16-day program that runs through this Saturday.

Anyone can visit its 20 locations throughout the Washington Heights-Inwood area, where visual artists are displaying photographs, neighborhood portraits and bright subway panels.

Also, performance art is being featured through short films, dance, music and the spoken word — all reflecting facets of northern Manhattan life.

"I had the original idea for this after walking around in Chelsea and talking about showing my art

there. Then I thought, I'd much rather do it in my own neighborhood," said Mike Fitelson, the organizer of the Uptown Arts Stroll.

At the Alianza Dominicana headquarters on Amsterdam Ave. near 181st St. area artists exhibit "Visions of Northern Manhattan," an eclectic collection of landscape photographs exploring social justice causes and powerful abstract portraits examining Dominican identity.

Steven Day, a photographer originally from California, displays a photo perspective on old high-rise bridge apartments built in the 1960s, part of his "Upper City" portfolio.

Another artist who goes by the single name Demostina or Demo came from the Dominican Republic

as a child. She now explores in vibrant oil and acrylic what it means to be Dominican in Washington Heights.

Fitelson is particularly proud of Craig Barrack, who has never shown any of his landscape watercolors and pastels before the Arts Stroll. His art will next be shown at OK Harris gallery in Chelsea.

"I've been in Inwood all these years and I didn't realize how many artists there were in Inwood — it's something — it really is exciting," said Barrack.

Art styles in upper Manhattan range from the traditional brush-on-canvas to Web sites and MySpace online pages, said Debralee Santos, project manager for the Casa Duarte Cultural and Performing Arts Center, an initiative that supports the area's diverse arts community.

"It's exciting and challenging. Daunting, really, in that the community is so rich in talent, life, movement and culture, and you want to do your absolute best to get it all out there," said Santos.

Servicing this mix of older and younger generations and finding a connection between the classical and digital worlds is part of what Casa Duarte seeks to address, Santos said. "Northern Manhattan has always been an immigrant community — and a lot of people are immigrating now from downtown," Fitelson said with a laugh. "I've always been interested in how art is used as a bridge, and there are many bridges over here."

Visitors can find a program schedule for the 2007 Uptown Arts Stroll at [www.artstroll.com](http://www.artstroll.com).

**Stew Leonard's**  
See our AD on Tuesday & Thursday

**Great News For The Bronx**  
Get your FREE Bronx Boro News every Tuesday in the Daily News

