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A New Artists Space

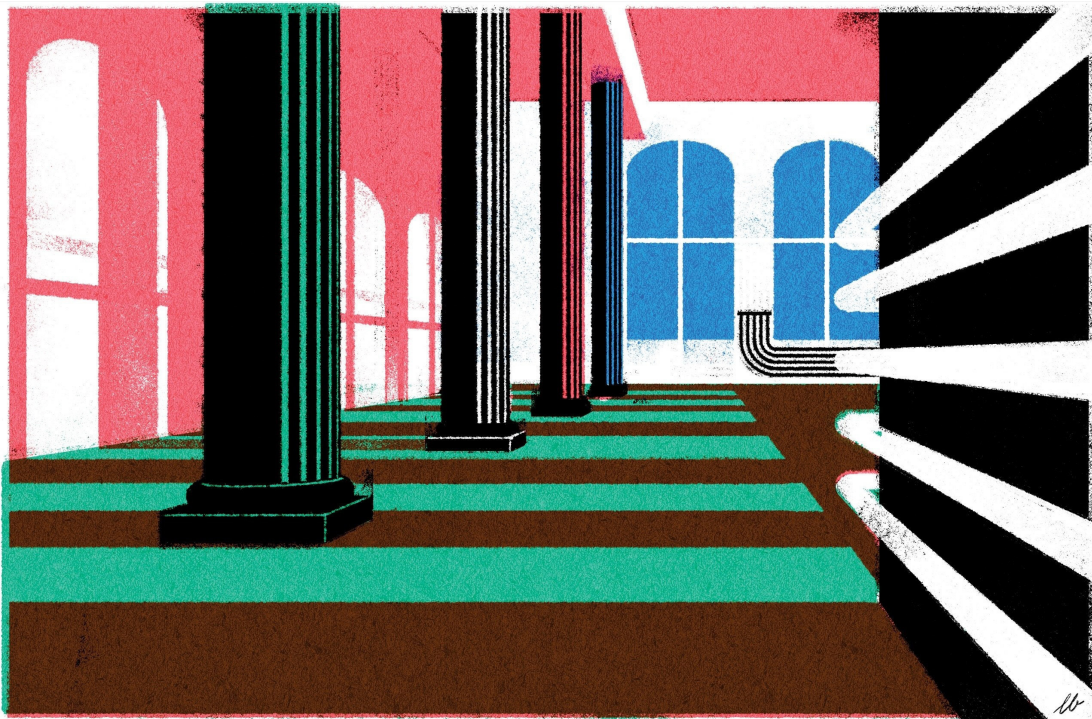


Illustration by Leonie Bos

The nonprofit Artists Space was founded in SoHo, in 1972, as a refuge for experimentalists. Cindy Sherman showed her “Film Stills” there for the first time, in the late seventies, when she was also briefly the receptionist (who once came to work dressed as a nurse). In 1989, Nan Goldin organized the group exhibition “Witnesses: Against Our Vanishing,” a cri de coeur deploring the AIDS epidemic, honing the activism she now directs at the Sackler opioid empire. For forty-seven years, Artists Space has been peripatetic, occupying five different locations. Now, as commerce dominates conversations about art—and artists need alternative strongholds more than ever—it has found a long-term home in a cast-iron building in Tribeca. Superbly designed by the architectural firm Bade Stageberg Cox, the two-level space feels at once permanent and provisional; the entrance on Cortlandt Alley, off White Street, sets the perfect liminal tone. The quartet of inaugural shows (through Feb. 9) is a hit-or-miss affair—so it goes with experiments—curated by Jamie Stevens (and Artist Space’s invaluable director Jay Sanders), with sculptures by Danica Barboza, Jason Hirata, Yuki Kimura, and, most impressive by far, Duane Linklater.

— Andrea K. Scott