

GO T H A M



REBECCA HALL

TALKS WITH ETHAN HAWKE ABOUT
HER DARING BROADWAY DEBUT

Where Science & Society Meet

LUXE AND THE CITY
Stars of New York Couture

PLUS Adrienne Arsht, Cornelia Guest, Naeem Khan

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Willie Suggs, the "queen of Harlem real estate," and real estate maven Lovelynn Gwinn discuss their neighborhood's ongoing evolution, as well as its incomparable comfort food at venerated supper club Londel's.

60 Roots
Spiced Nyangbo Crema, one of
The Cecil's exotic desserts.



Seeing Red

RH CONTEMPORARY ART SHOWCASES EDGY NEW ARTISTS FROM CHINA BEGINNING THIS MONTH.

BY MATTHEW STEWART

Gary Friedman, founder of RH (formerly Restoration Hardware), jumped boldly into the contemporary art world this year, first by acquiring *Rain Room*, the installation piece that became a cultural sensation when it was showcased at MoMA last summer. In November he announced a new initiative, RH Contemporary Art, a multiplatform channel designed to increase the visibility of news-making international artists. To coincide with the launch, Friedman opened the RH Contemporary Art gallery, a six-floor, 28,000-square-foot space in south Chelsea, which will serve as a cornerstone for the company's art programs. For the gallery's second show, Friedman and RH Contemporary VP Holly Baxter chose to look East, with an exhibit of next-generation Chinese artists called "Outside the Lines," running from January 31 to April 12.

How was the current show conceived and realized?

Holly Baxter: We are dedicated to finding the best artists across the globe, and China's next-generation artists have incredible talent. Their willingness to push boundaries reflects the title, "Outside the Lines."

What were you looking for in the artists chosen to participate?

HB: As part of the selection process, we went to Beijing and Shanghai to personally meet with many artists and discuss their concepts, philosophies, and practices. The 12 artists we selected are all very innovative in their fields and represent a diverse array of mediums. For example, Li Hui is one of the most important young artists working in the medium of light. Artist Ni Youyu developed his own painting process that involves using one ton of water to wash each layer of an acrylic landscape he painstakingly painted. Gao Weigang uses [everything from] mirror shards and burnt books to marble to produce his conceptual art.

What is the most exciting element of this show?

HB: The fact that we are either commissioning works from the artists or showing major/new pieces that have never been exhibited in New York. In addition, I believe that getting to know the artists and in this process, gaining greater understanding about China, has helped alter some preconceived notions. When people think about Chinese contemporary art, images of big faces come to mind, and artists from the Political Pop/Cynical Realism era have become staples of every big Chinese contemporary art exhibition in the US. But there is a whole new wave of Chinese artists who have broken free of this style and iconography. Each body of work in this exhibition is a time capsule. China is going through monumental change. We're providing a platform for artists to present their opinions on this evolving society. This is the true importance of the art. *437 W. 16th St.; rhcontemporaryart.com* **G**

LEFT: Yan Bing's *Five Cows No. 3* (2011).
TOP: Conceptual artist Li Hui's 2009 work, *V*,
uses lasers, mirrors, and smoke.

