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CLOSE-UP

Founded in 2007, **Jessica Silverman Gallery** long maintained a space on Sutter Street in San Francisco. Silverman's move to a nearby ground-floor location this fall saw the gallery's square footage quadruple. Thea Ballard caught up with Silverman to discuss plans for the spacious new site and being part of an evolving neighborhood.

Where are you going to move, and what inspired that?

The space is in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco, on the corner of Ellis and Leavenworth. It's a quickly changing area. One of the main reasons we're moving is for more space. We've been looking for the right place for almost two years; some of the things that were really important were being on the ground floor and being close to the neighborhood we're currently in.

What will the major changes be at the new location?

We're in 700 square feet right now, and the new space is 2,800 square feet. There's a really big shift, so it will allow us to do more ambitious projects. It's going to require greater scales from our artists, and we will probably be able to do two shows at once. We'll be

able to show a film in one area of the gallery while we have wall-bound work and sculpture in the other part, which is very exciting. There's a lot of natural light, and it's got floor-to-ceiling windows in the front. There's

a huge amount of change that's occurring, in terms of the physicality of the space. We plan on opening in November right after the New York auctions with an artist named Amikam Toren, who is in his 60s and is from Israel and based in London. This will be his first American solo exhibition. And we have exciting programming to follow that.

Anything else you'd like to share about the space?

We will retain some of the structural aspects. There's a really beautiful old brick wall in the front that we'll keep. One of the most important things is that it's a changing neighborhood, and we're closer to Union Square, where a lot of the other galleries are. MP



Jessica Silverman