

# The Looker

STARING DOWN  
CITY STYLE

EDITED BY LAUREN MURROW



## “The Most Interesting Gallerist in Town”

**Jessica Silverman** has a knack for spinning obscurity into greatness. Over the past five years, the 30-year-old Detroit native has made a name for her eponymous gallery on the international art scene by unearthing underappreciated talent and developing a collector base from the ground up. “I like being there first,” she says. “We’re bringing in artists who have no link to San Francisco and don’t already have a support system built for them.” Though her gallery’s 15 artists are commonly described as emerging, she’s vocally anti-ageist. Her youngest artist is 25-year-old Brooklynite Hugh Scott-Douglas, whose work Silverman showed at Art Basel last June; the oldest is septuagenarian Barbara Kasten, a photographer who will have a solo show at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia next year.

This month, Silverman’s unorthodox approach is again apparent with the next phase of the Jessica Silverman Gallery. While a handful of her fellow gallerists jumped east this fall, from downtown to the Potrero Hill strip newly christened Potrero Flats, she

BY Lauren Murrow | PHOTOGRAPH BY Margo Moritz

Jessica Silverman's new Tenderloin gallery in its infancy.

has relocated to a 2,800-square-foot corner space—formerly the Arlington Hotel—in the Tenderloin, quadrupling her gallery’s footprint (488 ELLIS ST., AT LEAVENWORTH ST., 415-255-9508). Chalk it up to youthful enterprise or creative foresight, but her success belies convention.

Silverman launched her original Dogpatch gallery five years ago while simultaneously earning her master’s in the curatorial program at California College of the Arts. “I was totally nuts,” she admits, “but I’ve always been a risk taker. That’s why I work with unknown artists.” Her

eye for overlooked talent has earned her a reputation as one to watch at international art shows—a rarity for a Bay Area-based dealer. (Bob Wilms, development director of Mission design showroom the Nwblk, calls her “by and large, the most interesting gallerist in town.”) The new space’s opening exhibition features a series of 7½-by-7-foot paintings made from London *Times* newsprint pulp by the Israel-born, London-based artist Amikam Toren—his first U.S. show (“OF THE TIMES AND OTHER HISTORIC WORKS,” NOV. 22–JAN. 19, JESSICASILVERMANGALLERY.COM). □

## THE INSIDER’S GUIDE TO OUT-OF-THE-BOX ART

Eight more new (or newly revamped) galleries for laser-cut sculptures, melted-down weaponry, and masking tape cityscapes.



**Catharine Clark Gallery** SPECIALIZES IN: Experimental video and digital media WHAT TO SEE NOW: Macabre collages and video installations by Stacey Steers combining images of silent film star Lillian Gish with 18th- and 19th-century illustrations, viewed through the windows of Victorian-era dollhouses (“Night Hunter,” through December 14). 248 UTAH ST. (AT 16TH ST.), 415-399-1439, CCLARKGALLERY.COM



**4x5 Gallery** SPECIALIZES IN: Photography by Bay Area artists WHAT TO SEE NOW: Pictures of San Francisco taken by unknown amateur photographers from the ‘40s to the ‘60s (“San Francisco Found,” through January 12, 2014). 442 HAIGHT ST. (NEAR WEBSTER ST.), 415-683-0730, 4X5GALLERYSF.COM



**Jack Fischer Gallery** SPECIALIZES IN: Self-taught and so-called outsider artists working at centers for adults with disabilities WHAT TO SEE NOW: Hyperrealistic black-and-white pencil drawings by Christina Empedocles and intricate cityscape drawings by Kevin Chen (“Two Pencils,” through December 31). 311 POTRERO AVE. (NEAR 16TH ST.), 415-522-1178, JACKFISCHERGALLERY.COM



**Brian Gross Fine Art** SPECIALIZES IN: Abstract and reductive painting WHAT TO SEE NOW: Geometric powder-coated steel sculptures by Linda Fleming, including *Crackle*, a 8½-by-14½-by-12-foot freestanding sculpture that viewers can walk into (“Evanescence,” through December 21). 248 UTAH ST. (AT 16TH ST.), 415-788-1050, BRIANGROSSFINEART.COM



**Fused Space** SPECIALIZES IN: The overlap between art and design WHAT TO SEE NOW: A group exhibit of sculptures and paintings inspired by building elements and furnishings—anti-slip guards, carpeting, cinder blocks, window blinds, and more—lending the effect of an imploded house (“Architecture Undigested,” through January 18, 2014). 1401 16TH ST. (NEAR CAROLINA ST.), FUSEDSPACE.COM



**Exhibit S** SPECIALIZES IN: Interactive and wearable art WHAT TO SEE NOW: Maren Conrad’s glinting paintings—acrylic mixed with resin and metal leaf—meet Danny Scheible’s masking tape sculptures (“Confidential,” through December 31). 1200 K ST. (NEAR 5TH ST.), SACRAMENTO, 203-500-8679, EXHIBITSTUDIOS.COM



**George Lawson Gallery** SPECIALIZES IN: Contemporary painting WHAT TO SEE NOW: Colored-linen grid paintings by Stephen Beal, president of California College of the Arts (“Colored Linens,” through December 21). 315 POTRERO AVE. (NEAR 16TH ST.), 415-703-4400, GEORGELOWSONGALLERY.COM



**Rêverie Arts** SPECIALIZES IN: Art that addresses social change and works by emerging local artists WHAT TO SEE NOW: Iridescent paintings by artist-in-residence Lin Evola, made from the repurposed steel of decommissioned nuclear weapons (“1962,” through March 1, 2014). 357 TEHAMA ST. (NEAR GALLAGHER ST.), 415-590-2960, REVERIE-ARTS.COM