

Artists embark on journey of self-discovery at Chelsea group show

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The Thomas Erben Gallery

The Thomas Erben Gallery in Chelsea is currently presenting a group show featuring work by artists, Yevgeniya Baras, Carolin Eidner, and Adelhyd van Bender. Although each artist works with vastly different media, their works all revolve around the idea of embarking on a journey of self-discovery while hinting at elements of mystery.

For instance, Carolin Eidner presents several installations, [sculptures](#), and watercolor [paintings](#) such as those from her *Morning Glory* series. One painting from her *Morning Glory* series illustrates a puppy coming out of a multi-colored vase, while another one illustrates a giant finger with a bright pink nail surround by bright brushstrokes. One of Eidner's intriguing installations is titled *Somewhere in Between I Have a Name* resembles a hammock with a white

sheet with a face painted in the center that's shaped like a pomegranate; freckles are spread across with blue eyes above and plump, red lips below.

Yevgeniya Baras combines geology and physiology; she offers several paintings with rough textures caused by her thick applications of paint upon canvasses, which she has constructed through carving, embroidering, and collage. Baras's paintings have taken several years to complete and she uses numerous abstract symbols. One of her paintings includes a thin, pink X stretching across it with small white "U" or "V" shaped designs falling down like raindrops. In another one of her paintings, she depicts the moon against the dark, night sky with a small hole below shining its bright light as though trying to pull the moon toward it.

Adelhyd van Bender's works are being presented posthumously. Bender passed away last year and his relatives discovered binders full of paintings and esoteric drawings covering the walls of his Berlin apartment. He was born in 1950 as Harald Bender in Bruchsal, Germany, and throughout his life and career, he drew, collaged, and hand-colored several Xeroxed pages with bright colors and various geometric shapes and symbols that seem unfinished creating an enigmatic effect.

At the [Thomas Erben Gallery](#), 526 W. 26th St. through Jul. 20. The gallery is open Tues.—Sat. from 10 a.m.—6 p.m.

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