

The New York Times

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in January

By Holland Cotter

Published Jan. 4, 2024

LOWER EAST SIDE

G. Peter Jemison

Through Jan. 27. 47 Canal, 291 Grand Street, Manhattan; 646-415-7712, 47canal.us.



G. Peter Jemison, “Second Ave & 11th,” 1984; acrylic, fur, and fencing on paper.
via G. Peter Jemison and 47 Canal, New York

As a young painter in the 1960s, G. Peter Jemison (Seneca, Heron Clan) garnered auspicious attention from the mainstream New York art world. At the same time, he made his Native American contemporaries his creative cohort. (Beginning in 1978 and for many years, he was the trailblazing curator of the American Indian Community House’s gallery in Manhattan.) And that early choice, between center and periphery, insider and outlier, helps explain why “On the Right Path, Works: 1982-2023” is his first solo show in New York City in 50 years.

It’s a beautiful thing, and although very much a selection rather than a survey, it gives a good sense of where this artist-activist, now in his late 70s, came from. He was born in a Seneca community in upstate New York, where he lives, and from which his New York City years were an extended but formative interlude. The two locations come together in a terrific series of 1980s paintings of Indigenous themes done on commercial shopping bags of a kind he’d spotted on daily subway trips. And while images of nature, panoramic and close-up, are his mainstay, they’re infused — always have been — with an environmental politics that the art world is ready for now.

[*Direct Link*](#)