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Arts

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SMART BROOKLYN GALLERY HOP

That Brooklyn has a thriving arts scene is hardly news. Review-circuit destinations like Dumbo Arts Center on Washington Street, Pierogi in Williamsburg and countless other galleries have sprouted up in recent years at a breakneck pace. But what is probably news to many who live outside Brooklyn's borders (and inside them, for that matter) is that there is plenty of art beyond the neighborhoods usually pitched to intrepid Manhattanites as "just the first stop in Brooklyn."

Marty Markowitz, the Brooklyn borough president, has arranged for you to discover where, exactly, in his 72-square-mile domain, all of that art can be found. On Sunday the smART Brooklyn Gallery Hop will include four bus routes crisscrossing the borough and linking many neighborhoods usually segregated by subway lines. A sampling from the Gold Loop offers a snapshot of new art as well as the waterfront's transformation from its industrial past: Smack Mellon (above) in Dumbo has placed contemporary art in a space that at one point was a boiler house for a paper-box company, and the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition is holding its holiday art sale in its 19th-century warehouse.

Other routes on the gallery hop veer farther off the beaten path, both physically and conceptually. The Brooklynite Gallery, a storefront in Bedford-Stuyvesant, represents and exhibits street artists like the Kuildoosh collective and Aiko; Proteus Gowanus bases its exhibitions of art, artifacts and books on a single theme that changes once a year; and Tabla Rasa Gallery's originality lies in its location, in Sunset Park. Or maybe, in the spirit of that other gallery district, we should start calling it SuPa. (Buses depart various locations on the hour from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; routes are at brooklyn-usa.org; 718-802-3530 or smart@visitbrooklyn.org to register; free.) **MONICA DRAKE**