



TE-AMO signs and DKNY posters are some of the many ways that New York City walls are adorned. And artist Wendy Artin loves 'em all.

New York Post: Mike Norcia

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Looking for Artin walls

By HEIDI MAE BRATT

ARTIST Wendy Artin had become a near fixture on several downtown streets last summer. She'd plant herself in the grimmest of places, sit beneath a straw hat, her minimal supplies and a bottle of mineral water in tow, and stare at a wall for days.

After three days or so of painting, what would spring to life in her notebook was a watercolor rendering of a wall — as in graffiti, gritty facade — so rich in texture and sensuous tones, and with such geographically accurate details that one could recognize the city of origin.

For a dozen years, Artin, whose exhibition "Art in Walls" will be on view at Synchronicity Space beginning tonight, has painted walls in cities spanning from New York to Paris to Boston to Rome to San Miguel in Mexico.

New York City facades are this artist's gritty muse

But it's Soho, she says, that "has the most seductive walls" full of posters and graffiti and art before the neighborhood changed and went upscale.

One work, for example, that depicts a street with Chinese signage and an unexpected "zza" — the last remnants of what was once a pizza parlor — visually demonstrates Little Italy being swallowed up by Chinatown.

"There's a complexity in the walls of New York," Artin, 33, observes. "Because painting and adorning walls is very much a way that people deal with the hard facade here."

Painting these facades is a way for Artin to "travel, and meet people." It's also a

way for the globetrotting artist, who has shown in her native Boston and Paris, to interpret the art of others.

Take her Greene Street wall that includes a rat. She learned the rat was painted as part of an art student's thesis two years earlier.

While every wall tells a story, some of Artin's own tales are even more interesting and underscore the challenge she faces working on city streets.

Artin recalls leaning on a good-sized box that doubled as a makeshift chair while painting a wall on Mercer Street. Suddenly, a cop cruiser stopped and out sprang a police officer. He whipped out an Exacto

knife and shredded the box. "Damn. This three-card Monte," he cursed.

Another time in Guatemala, Artin remembers, a drunken man flashed a machete at her and asked the young American artist for "dollars."

"I quickly got my paints together and ran to the bodega across the street," she says.

This is Artin's first New York show, but the thin-boned artist has been getting recognition in Europe. Princess Caroline of Monaco purchased two of her paintings at a recent Paris show. And unlike others on the scene here, Artin is hardly jaded. "It was wonderful," she coos.

"Art in Walls" a show of Wendy Artin's watercolors will be on display starting tonight thru Dec. 8 at Synchronicity Space, 35 Mercer St., (212)925-8645.