





multitasker

Energetic curator, collector and philanthropist Tim Nye has added another position to his résumé—dealer. By Adrian Darnall. Photographs by Matthew Monteith

"I'D REALLY LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY DEALING," Tim Nye says, his face lit by the glow of the giant fish tank in his black, ultramodern duplex. Grinning, he adds, "I have to be honest that it was kind of liberating when I admitted it." Already a significant collector and accomplished entrepreneur at 39, Nye recently opened his latest venture, a commercial gallery called Nyehaus, on the floor above his residence in the elegant National Arts Club building on Gramercy Park.

Being passionate about art and successful in business is something of a family trait, and Nye reaps the benefits of his ties. In addition to having real estate investments, Nye runs a private foundation and maintains an extensive contemporary art collection, which includes works by artists as diverse as Claes Oldenburg, Paul McCartney and Robert Rauschenberg. "Being an art collector is viewed by the general public as much cooler than being on the commercial side," he says, in his typically animated manner. "I obviously had to decide if there was any way to be a dealer—and there isn't."

Nyehaus was officially inaugurated in March with an exhibition of works by Martin Kippenberger, who is enjoying a posthumous revival at the moment. The current show of Jacqueline Hurpin's "Black Light" abstract paintings runs through June 18. Ambitious shows of artists Nye calls "contemporary masters," such as Richard Tuttle, Franz West and Robert Rauschenberg, are planned in a next year and beyond. Like his apartment, the gallery consists of 11 generous, high-ceilinged spaces, which make for flexible exhibition environments. Indeed, as we walk through the National Arts Club, a landmark urban building renovated in Victorian style by Calvert Vaux in the 1860s, in an aesthetic pleasure itself, worlds away from the glass-and-concrete jungles of Chelsea.

"I wanted to create a distinct place for what I'm doing, one that really sets me apart," says Nye. "It's about creating through context for the art, intellectual as well as physical, whether in an exhibition or in my own home." >



Below the main image, Tim Nye is seen in his apartment with a piece of art. (Photo: © 2005, Robert Rauschenberg, and © 2005, Robert Rauschenberg. All rights reserved. Photo: © 2005, Robert Rauschenberg. All rights reserved.)