

The High Line Nine, a collection of new galleries slated to open this month, adds fresh cultural dimension to the West Chelsea arts district.

By Jean Nayar

Among the most valued amenities associated with the spate of new starchitect-designed residential buildings emerging around the High Line are the surrounding neighborhoods themselves—with their lively restaurants, chic retail shops and top-notch art galleries. When it opens—expectedly this month—the High Line Nine, a Europeanstyle galleria on West 28th Street, is sure to become the latest must-see destination in the area's cultural corridor.

Developed by the Related Companies and housed in a new building adjacent to Zaha Hadid's recently launched condo building, the High Line Nine is a collection of highly amenitized gallery spaces that are part of a broader gallery initiative anchored by the acclaimed Paul Kasmin Gallery. Spearheaded by Related's executive vice president, Greg Gushee, the concept takes its cues from its immediate context—most notably its striking next-door neighbor. "This project was inspired by Zaha Hadid's sculptural building at 520 West 28th St., which is a monumental piece of art and

one of the finest residential buildings in the city," Gushee says.

Designed by studioMDA, which specializes in gallery design, the High Line Nine galleria is situated just off of the stairway descending from the High Line at 28th Street and will include an outdoor cafe and wine bar, where visitors can stop for a bite or a glass of wine before touring the galleries within. The entire initiative will include five other galleries along with the nine boutique exhibition spaces within the High Line Nine building.

The High Line Nine will also no doubt be a welcomed addition to the neighborhood by residents of the stellar new structures contributing to the renaissance playing out across West Chelsea. From Gushee's vantage point, it's easy to see why the new galleria is the perfect perk for its culture-conscious neighbors. "Many are art collectors already," he says, and the High Line Nine gives them an inviting place to experience a broad range of contemporary art in a single curated context.



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