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Art & Design

Art in Review

GEORG GATSAS

James Fuentes LLC

35 St. James Place, Chinatown

Through Sunday

At a gallery tucked away next to a Chinatown funeral parlor, the Lower East Side is being laid to rest. In his slide projection "Five Points," the Swiss-born photographer and musician Georg Gatsas celebrates the last remaining artist's enclave in Manhattan (more or less the same turf immortalized by [Martin Scorsese](#)'s "Gangs of New York"). Stray cats, graffitied stairwells and downtown artists including Rita Ackermann appear in his black-and-white and color photographs.

In the gallery's release, Mr. Gatsas describes the local amenities: "cheap deli stores and Asian restaurants"; "hidden gambling places and whorehouses." His photographs are ominously nocturnal in the manner of Peter Hujar's late-1970s shots of the Far West Village and, more recently, Christopher Wool's mid-1990s series "East Broadway Breakdown," but they evince a more casual approach. A recording of dark ambient rumblings and tribal drumming by the band I.U.D., whose members include Sadie Laska and the fellow gallery artist Lizzi Bougatsos, heightens the shadowy mood.

The death knell is probably premature. Still, the slide projection, with its abrupt transitions punctuated by a mechanical clickety-clack, is an ideal medium for sighs of "there goes the neighborhood." **KAREN ROSENBERG**