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When in... Berlin

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Harking back to the city's long tradition of artistic activity and atmosphere, post-reunification Berlin is enjoying a surge of productivity — if maybe not quite commensurate consumption by collectors — unrivaled since the Weimar era. The city actively supports this growth — with relatively poor districts such as Neukölln offering all manner of incentives and concessions to get aspiring curators to use some of the plentiful, empty retail and industrial space.

Galleries tend to cluster together — recently, Brunnenstrasse (U8 Bernauer Strasse) in Mitte has become something of a destination for small to midsize spaces, while nearby Linienstrasse (U2 Rosa-Luxemburgplatz, U6 Oranienburger Tor), snaking through the central heart of former East Berlin, boasts an abundance of older, midmarket establishments. Slightly to the east, Friedrichshain boasts edgier, younger ventures, while the former squat scenes of Kreuzberg and Neukölln are thriving hotbeds of activity that have largely resisted the gentrification that's crept into other districts. Farther out, locations in the working-class district of Wedding demonstrate how Berliners can transform the most unpromising of locations — a former bus garage, a derelict swimming pool, and even a kebab shop — into exciting and practical art spaces.

Through a series of new exhibitions from local artists — [Jon Kessler](#), [Raikamal Kahlon](#), and [Leila Pazooki](#). Meanwhile, the excellent **Maud Piquion Gallery** (Brunnenstrasse 38, +49 (0)30/ 831 070 39, www.maudpiquion.com) in Mitte's Brunnenstrasse gives over its tiny entirety to [Tra Bouscaren](#), a painter whose superb ripped, layered, and distressed canvases will be scaring viewers from Sept. 11 in an exhibition titled "Metamorphosis."

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