

# OBSERVER

*On the Importance of Middle Market Dealers in a Thriving Art Scene*

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Candice Madey

Stellar Projects, 1 Rivington (by appointment)

Candice Madey opened On Stellar Rays with her finger on the pulse. In 2009, her inaugural year, she co-curated a show with performance artist Kate Gilmore, a rising star at the time, (now established canon), and launched a solo exhibition with Clifford Owens, a photographer and performance artist just off a prestigious PS1 residency.

Gallery-goers regularly swarmed her openings due to that programming, which went beyond trend hopping and consistently supported performance artists and challenging conceptual art. Despite this success, though, Madey made the decision to close her space in 2017 and open Stellar Projects—a private viewing space and vehicle for off-site curation. Additionally, she is now the curator for the Hudson Valley-based River Valley Arts Collective, a workspace and exhibition venue for artists in the Hudson Valley.

Oddly enough, even the private shows Madey curates get buzz. At a recent opening, several friends mentioned her show, “Ten at Seven” at the SJ Weiler Fund, (open August 7 and September 11, 4-7 p.m.), a historic (albeit ominous) look at artworks addressing politics and social issues. **The intimate collection of work includes dozens of Pam Lin’s glazed stoneware eyes overlooking Sofia Cordova’s pink taxidermied dove. The pink palette and gender fluid culture it evokes would feel friendly and inviting, were it not for the police state type eyes overlooking the whole show.**