

SEAN KELLY

"500 Best Galleries Worldwide 2015," *Modern Painters*, August 2015.

MODERN PAINTERS



Installation view of Mariko Mori's
Cycliscape.

SEAN KELLY GALLERY | NEW YORK, U.S.

ARTISTS: Marina Abramović, Los Carpinteros, Antony Gormley, Joseph Kosuth, and Kehinde Wiley

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SEAN KELLY, OWNER

How did you get your start as a gallerist?

I went to art school and became an artist. Subsequently I worked in museums and then as an independent curator. It was a natural next step for me to establish my own space.

How have you generally discovered new artists?

Are there any new discoveries for the gallery whom you're especially excited about?

I make it a priority to always be out looking, especially when I travel, which is a lot. That's how we discovered Sun Xun.

On a trip to Beijing, we spent several days visiting local galleries; Sun Xun's was the last exhibition we saw. We knew immediately that we wanted to work with him.

What trend do you see happening in your region right now?

Many of the galleries who helped transform Chelsea into a major art hub are being priced out of the neighborhood. They're moving to spaces in different areas of the city—just as we did in moving to Hudson Yards in 2012—where they can continue to afford to experiment and take chances.

What might you be doing if you weren't a gallerist?

I suppose I would either be an architect, an author, or a farmer . . . or better yet, all three at the same time!

If cost were no object, what work of art would you have in your bedroom?

It would be an Egyptian artifact at the Met called *Fragment of a Queen's Face*. It's made of yellow jasper and dates back to before 1300 B.C.