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An installation view of “Housewarming” at Third Floor (left) and Sarah Braman’s “Her Chair,” 2018 (right).  
From left: Courtesy of Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York; © Sarah Braman; Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York.

## A New York Gallery That Feels Like Home

When Nicelle Beauchene decided that it was time to expand her 10-year-old [namesake gallery](#) on the Lower East Side, the last thing she wanted was another white box. For years, artists have been hosting shows in their friends’ living rooms. Why couldn’t gallerists do the same?

“It’s a good time to explore and experiment,” Beauchene said recently, standing in a furnished one-bedroom apartment that is now her new gallery Third Floor. “The market has been the focus of conversation for the last ten years and now it’s finally shifting to a place where we can just talk about the work.” The gallery’s inaugural show, “Housewarming,” which will open on Sunday, was being installed around us. Displaying art in a domestic setting, she said, “feels very familial instead of commercial,” referencing a tradition that extends from European salons to townhouses-turned-galleries on the Upper East Side and pop-ups in artists’ living rooms in Bushwick.

For “Housewarming,” Beauchene turned to “friends and artists I’ve worked with in the last few years” to bring together works that act as artistic substitutes for functional objects throughout the apartment. The lines blur appealingly. A piece by Samara Golden

## NICELLE BEAUCHENE GALLERY

and John Seal, a stained-glass lamp fused with an abstract oil painting, stands on a credenza in the living room. Dan Herschlein, whose window installations currently adorn the exterior of the New Museum, created a version featuring a headless T-shirted torso next to one of Third Floor's actual windows. There are ceramic vases by Bruce M. Sherman, a clock by Paul Roupail and soft sculptures by Al Freeman that depict, among other things, a wall-mounted microwave oven and a giant bottle of Sriracha sauce. Profusely patterned shirts by Cheryl Donegan and Print All Over Me hang in the bedroom closets.

Classic rock sounded from a bathroom where contractors were finishing work. In the living room, Beauchene pointed out Elizabeth Jaeger's "Vessel Sink Vanity," a mounted basin with hoses hanging from its granite countertop. "The contractors were asking, Is this the sink for the bathroom?" *"Housewarming" opens Nov. 4; for information, contact [gallery@nicellebeauchene.com](mailto:gallery@nicellebeauchene.com).* — REBECCA BENGAL