A Fashion Designer's First Home Collection Pays Homage to Haiti and New York

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An Eclectic Installation in Chinatown

By M. H. Miller

A view of Tyree Guyton's installation "The Heidelberg Project, New York City" (2022), presented by **Martos After Dark.** Photo: Charles Benton. Courtesy of the artist, the Heidelberg Project, Detroit, and Martos Gallery, New York

Walking south on Elizabeth Street, just above Canal, you'll find spot an inconspicuous message on a brick wall that reads 2+2=8. A painting by the Detroit-based Tyree Guyton, it is an introduction of sorts to an installation next door: Inside a small, windowed storefront operated by Martos Gallery, Guyton's dealer, the white walls are painted with clocks (one of the artist's recurring symbols), and at a table covered in detritus like an old TV, a tea set and a piece of rusted metal, a group of dirty mannequins sit as if they are a family scarfing down dinner in full view of the traffic coming off the nearby Manhattan Bridge. For much of his career, which began in the 1980s, Guyton has shown his work on a stretch of Detroit's Heidelberg Street, where he grew up. As manufacturing work declined, and the neighborhood fell into disrepair, Guyton began an unorthodox act of preservation, turning the area into a popular open-air museum by filling vacant lots with sculptures and paintings made from discarded relics: stuffed animals, busted sneakers, car hoods, broken vacuum cleaners. This tiny New York show reveals Guyton both transcending and perpetuating the legend of Heidelberg, and solidifying 2+2=8 as an artistic treatise. If you look close enough, anything — be it the block you grew up on or a busy New York street corner — can be a place of beauty and reflection. *"The Heidelberg Project, New York City" is on view 24 hours a day, indefinitely, at Martos After Dark, 167 Canal Street,* martosgallery.com.