

DOWNTOWN

Music GALLERY

13 Monroe St. NY, NY
ph. 212-473-0043

www.downtownmusicgallery.com
dmg@downtownmusicgallery.com

This is Bruce Lee Gallanter, co-owner & founder of Downtown Music Gallery, one of the few last surviving record stores in Manhattan. We opened in May of 1991 and have had to move twice, once from our location on East 5th St (1991-2003), then to the 342 Bowery (2003-2009), both times due to greedy landlords & real estate speculators. We are one of the few record stores on the planet earth to specialize in adventurous music only, music with little or no commercial potential. We transmit a weekly e-mail newsletter which reaches 7,000+ friends & customers from around the world. We also have a long tradition of free weekly in-store performances where many legendary musicians have played. We are now in a basement space in Chinatown, even further downtown and further underground, but we survive. Adventurous music listeners from all around the world come to visit us on a daily basis since we carry music that most stores don't care about.

Over the half dozen years that we were on the Bowery, the block has changed completely on east side with a number ludicrous looking buildings popping up on nearly each block. A number of grassroots stores have been forced to close and often no one can afford to move in, and these spaces remain unoccupied for years. It is very sad to see what has happened to this once culturally interesting area where only the rich can survive. CBGB's is now gone, as is the Bouwerie Theatre and now we are also gone from the Bowery. The Bowery Poetry Club is the only place that has maintained the old spirit of the Bowery. How long they will last is anybody's guess. Something must be done in order to preserve the creative spirit that once defined this historic area.

- Bruce Lee Gallanter of Downtown Music Gallery

