

GREAT ROOMS | NOV. 28, 2023

An East Williamsburg Loft Full of Satyrs, Fairies, and Plants “I don’t really like this,” says artist TM Davy.



By *Wendy Goodman*, *Curbed* and *New York Magazine's* design editor





Great Rooms

*A visual diary by Design Editor
Wendy Goodman.*

TM Davy in front of his painting *three faerie friends*. Two singing bowls are on the floor nearby. Photo: Wendy Goodman

The works in artist TM Davy's darkly enchanting show at Company Gallery, "Fae," with their satyrs, fairies, tiny monsters, and magical charm in East Williamsburg that itself seems protected by a powerful bohemian spell.

Davy and his husband, gardener Liam O'Malley Davy, found the apartment on Craigslist in 2010 in a building that was once a sewing factory. I bedroom/study space is stacked over the kitchen.

North light is always preferable for painting, and their place faces south. "But you can't have it all," Davy says, laughing. "The plus is that my husband kind of beat him up; he left teaching a few years ago, and he's a gardener now. He's working on Fire Island, and he's brought a lot of plants into containers filled with large plants beside us are also in the show.

The apartment is furnished with an array of collected things: “Mostly, a lot of it has been inherited, but honestly, the hallway is this great exchange of things out and pick things up. I get paint on everything, so we don’t buy too-nice things. We’ve picked up a lot of stuff over the years.”

In 2017, after a series of rent increases threatened to price them out, they and their fellow tenants got together and appealed to the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission.

“It was a weird nightmare,” Davy says. “A lot of people chickened out; they didn’t feel it was worth the stress. What were they afraid of? I don’t know. I was with it.” In the end, their apartment became rent stabilized.

Davy says that back in 2011, “we debated me getting a separate studio, but I like to paint really late at night and then climb into bed and not have to get up. Besides, he adds, “I don’t really know that there are many places left like this.”


Liam's office is tucked away upstairs. Photo: Wendy Goodman

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