

Melted Popsicle

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Art, an esthetic aberration meant to show up the Museum of Modern Art as a put-on and fraud. The original gallery was not without its charms, among them exotic cuisine with a view.

Not surprisingly, however, it flopped. Five years later, renamed, it became a cultural outpost of New Jersey's Fairleigh Dickinson University and proceeded to stage the kind of off-beat, unexpected, unpolished and provocative shows that establishment museums will not touch. The center added an intimate, somewhat raffish, and decidedly welcome extra dimension to the New York art scene, which, more and more, conforms to standard cosmic values and measured box-office appeal. Mavericks finish last.

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In one of New York's lesser urban vicissitudes, bids are being taken on the New York Cultural Center—the tiny popsicle palace on Columbus Circle that has had a brief, checkered career in the city's artistic life and is now for sale to anyone who wants it.

An architectural aberration on a too-small traffic island of a site, the building opened elegantly eleven years ago as Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern

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