

THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

April 3-9, 2002

ART
GALLERIES- UPTOWN

JAY DE FEO

This mini-retrospective focuses on the years before and after the late Bay Area artist (and Beat Generation bigwig) created her much vaunted, rarely seen painting, "The Rose," a one-ton accretion of pigment that consumed her career from 1958 until 1966. (The piece is now in the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum.) By far the strongest early work here is "Song of Innocence," a small canvas from 1957. Its mosaic of impasto brushstrokes and radial imagery presage the dense alchemy that followed. Also noteworthy are two drawings of swim goggles from 1977, deftly infusing the mundane with mysticism. Through May 4. (Rosenfeld, 24 W. 57th St. 247-0082.)