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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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GALLERIES—UPTOWN

HENRY WESSEL

Based in San Francisco since the early seventies, Wessel has been regularly championed, forgotten, and rediscovered in subsequent decades. This well-chosen mini-retrospective of black-and-white photographs made between 1968 and 1987 is yet another attempt to establish him. But Wessel is too elusive to be pinned down as the deadpan West Coast wit his most famous images suggest. There are pictures here that could easily be mistaken for works by Garry Winogrand, Richard Misrach, Ed Ruscha, or Robert Adams, and the mood shifts from buoyant to mordant, from skeptical to amused. But Wessel's slipperiness is his strength; he doesn't repeat himself and is never a bore. Through July 8. (Pace/MacGill, 32 E. 57th St. 212-759-7999.)