



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART GALLERIES—CHELSEA

APRIL 2018

## Jay DeFeo

Among the seventy fascinatingly varied works on view in this decades-spanning show is an untitled piece, from 1973, that meets the barest definition of a collage—it's a single rose, cut carefully from a black-and-white photo, floating on a white background. With this breezy, refined gesture, the artist, who worked in the San Francisco Bay area until her death, in 1989, conjures her most famous painting, "The Rose," from 1958-1966, which, as a Sisyphean two-ton grisaille relief, could not be more different. Such was DeFeo's breadth. While this exhibition focusses on her savvy dalliance with Surrealism—her titles refer to works by Dali and Duchamp; in one small painting, a moth shellacked to an egg form evokes a bad dream—it also showcases her unique strain of abstraction. In delicate drawings and commanding earth-tone canvases, she presents fantastic, isolated machine forms, like details of Futurist compositions, in which gears or pistons resemble musculature.