THE NEW YORKER JULY 2, 2012

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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"COSMO"

Prettiness for the hell of it. Wall works by Polly Apfelbaum, including sweetly desultory ceramic plaques, anchor a show of artists who are all in for bravely simpering charm. Consider Zachary Leener's greenframed oil pastels of noodly shapes in passive-aggressively weak-kneed color, or Anya Kieler's "Lady Knight": boxed scrims of webby fabric, dyed and painted blue and indigo, secreting the image of some starry goddess. If you think art should be about more than inventively lovely things, get set to argue. Through July 21. (Von Nichtssagend, 54 Ludlow St. 212-777-7756.)