



## THE NEW YORKER

**January 13, 2010**

**Goings On About Town**

**MARTIN WONG**

A gallery that helped pioneer the East Village scene in the eighties pays homage to a realist painter who thrived there. (The show was organized by the young artist Adam Putnam.) Wong, who died in 1999 of an AIDS-related illness, made work that was ardent, scrappy, and a little naïve, while also being stringently streetwise. Paintings of constellations have brick-wall-patterned borders, as if the heavens were hemmed in by urban grit. In one circular canvas, an eye in a pyramid hovers above towering tenements. Tattooed muscle-men appear on bikes and lounging on beds. Paintings of cactuses marry the mysticism of Georgia O'Keeffe and the sadism of Robert Mapplethorpe, a fellow-poet of roughness and grace. Through Jan. 30. (P.P.O.W, 511 W. 25th St. 212-647-1044.)

*Short List*