

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

GALLERIES – UPTOWN February 8, 2010 Issue

John McLaughlin

A perennial dark horse among mid-century American masters of abstract painting quietly stuns anew in a concise show of canvases dating from 1950 to 1974. McLaughlin, born in Massachusetts, was a Californian late bloomer, versed in Japanese culture. His usually symmetrical, spare, smoothly brushed blocks and bands of muted color reward long looking. The more his art compels comparisons to Barnett Newman's or Ellsworth Kelly's, the more distinctively original it appears. Little by little, it eliminates all possible responses, except to love it. Through Feb. 13. (Greenberg Van Doren, 730 Fifth Ave., at 57th St. 212-445-0444.)