

THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

JOHN AHEARN

Looking classical now, these painted life-cast sculptures of folks in the South Bronx, from 1981-91, revisit a moment of populist high heat, when idealistic young New York artists took to the streets. The personalities of Ahearn's irrepressible subjects—a fiendish young guy with a cigarette and a seashell necklace, a gaunt and witchy woman with very long red fingernails—seethe. Intense colors convey flesh sweating in summer. The people don't feel here with us; we feel there with them, in their lived element. This is great work. Through Feb. 22.

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