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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN
ART
GALLERIES - CHELSEA

BILL OWENS

Owens, who is best known for his 1973 book "Suburbia," is easy to shrug off as a clever, anecdotal photographer in the tradition of Elliot Erwitt. But this excellent survey of work mostly from the seventies emphasizes Owens's sharper edge and restores the bite to his satirical view of the American Dream, California-subdivision style. Opening with a wall of gun-toting children and adults, the show touches down at Altamont (where Hell's Angels are beating someone to the ground before a horrified crowd), a women's bathroom (where a girl leans toward a mirror, coke spoon poised), a busy hot tub, a prom, a strip club, and various grill-friendly back yards. Banal may not be beautiful, but it ages well. Through Sept. 24. (Cohan, 533 W. 26th St. 212-714-9500.)