

PRICE \$5.99

MAY 7, 2012

THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

"RADICAL LOCALISM: ART, VIDEO AND CULTURE FROM PUEBLO NUEVO'S MEXICALI ROSE"

The harsh environs of the border town Mexicali, in Baja California, are the de-facto subject matter of the paintings, photos, and videos in this moving show. Works by local artists affiliated with Mexicali Rose, a community-oriented gallery founded in 2007, combine to form a portrait of a city riven by poverty, drugs, and human trafficking, with a government engaged in malignant neglect. A number of works address the town's rampant homophobia—despite, or perhaps because of, its highly visible homosexual population. But while progress is slow, it is evident. One video documents artists and volunteers joining forces to construct a shimmering mural made of reflective glass, a radiant symbol of the Mexicali community's efforts to let in the light. Through May 27. (Artists Space, 38 Greene St. 212-226-3970.)