

“Going On About Town,” *The New Yorker*, February 7, 2017

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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

Ivan Morley

The Burbank-born artist has a fascination with the frontier days of Los Angeles, as described in Horace Bell’s 1877 memoir, “Reminiscences of a Ranger.” In one anecdote, a former slave makes his fortune shipping cats from L.A. to rat-plagued San Francisco. Elements of this story and others appear and reappear in Morley’s elaborate embroideries on canvas and in his laborious paintings on panel and on tooled leather (a material that conjures thoughts of cowboys and gunslingers). But the images are surrounded by so many psychedelic blotches of color—notably, an explosive pattern of bilious pinks and greens—that the tenuously figurative results look more like expressionist odes to the process of memory than references to a bygone, rough-and-ready Wild West. *Through Feb. 18. (Bortolami, 520 W. 20th St. 212-727-2050.)*