



THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART GALLERIES—UPTOWN

Saul Fletcher

At the age of fifteen, Fletcher dropped out of school in hardscrabble Lincolnshire, where he was born, and joined the Army. By sixteen, he was back home, working the docks. He joined an amateur camera club. London called, and critical and curatorial success followed. Imagine Heathcliff as a contemporary photographer, staging exquisitely broody tableaux in his studio, marking the wall with Twomblyesque scribbles and tacking up objects—a black umbrella, say, or an old wooden foot. Friends and family drift in, styled to match the mood (a disaffected dandy, a wild-haired little girl). These intense pictures tend to be only five or six inches wide. Sixteen new works are on view in this show, titled “Four Loom Weaver,” after a Lincolnshire folksong, a lament for the starving. Fletcher has lived in Berlin for twenty years, and several images here move beyond the workaday gothic to tackle Europe’s fraught history, including an homage to Czesława Kwoka, a Polish child murdered at Auschwitz.

—*Andrea K. Scott*