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Joan Mitchell

Schjeldahl, Peter. "Joan Mitchell." The New Yorker, April 4, 2011.



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

JOAN MITCHELL

Unfamiliar glories from the great painter's salad days, in the fifties, make for the most exhilarating show in town. Starting from a sensualized Cubism, redolent of Gorky and Hofmann, Mitchell broke free with gestural strokes of varied size, speed, and viscosity, mixing strong colors on the fly. No other paint-slinger since Pollock and de Kooning has outshined her jolting, songful confidence. Counterpoints of piled-up paint and blank surface convey that more is more and that less is heaven. When, now and then, she slows down and fills a canvas with meditative inflections, the effect is condensed bliss.

Through April 16