

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN GALLERIES-CHELSEA

JAN MÜLLER

Bookstein

This underappreciated New York School painter, who died in 1958 at the age of thirty-six, trained with Hans Hofmann (both artists emigrated from Germany), and his early works channel his teacher's preoccupation with color into syncopated, all-over mosaics of solid squares. Müller began integrating figures into his compositions tentatively, as white skeletons against his usual mosaic background, then in the form of ten bucktoothed witches painted on a totem of six stacked wood panels. That work has a companion in Müller's ghoulish tableau of Faust's Walpurgisnacht, which is the anchor for the postwar exhibition "Soldier, Spectre, Shaman," up now at MOMA. *Through March 12*.