

ART GALLERIES—CHELSEA

“Betty Parsons: Invisible Presence”

Parsons, who died in 1982, decided to become an artist after visiting the 1913 New York Armory Show as a child. She went on to become a legendary art dealer, launching the careers of such postwar giants as Jackson Pollock and Barnett Newman. But she never stopped making her own work. This engaging exhibition traces her development from early figurative bronzes to the totemic, color-driven abstractions she began painting in the forties. In the 1940 gouache “Celeste Beach, Acapulco, Mexico,” leaping hills, tussling waves, and coils of orange sand seem to chafe against their borders. Her later paintings are just as arresting, including “Bird in a Boat,” from 1971, in which jagged slivers of blue float across a field of green.

Through July 14.

Gray
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