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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

"CITY PORTRAITS"

Three subjects of August Sander's "Citizens of the 20th Century," including a fiercely stylish secretary and a pitiful jobless man, open this exhibition of (mostly) street portraits. The photographs that follow are by some of that century's most acute observers of the pedestrian population, Helen Levitt, Garry Winogrand, Lisette Model, and Harry Callahan among them. Working in public takes a certain nerve, and here it's often rewarded with nervy subjects, like the trio of wig-wearing hookers Louis Faurer photographed in 1971 or the hard-bitten, cigar-smoking blonde in Washington Square Park, whom Diane Arbus had met six years earlier. Through April 5. (Bell, 511 W. 25th St. 212-691-3883.)

deborah bell
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