

THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

PETER FEND

Fend, who's been exhibiting in New York and abroad since the late seventies, is a pioneering eco-conceptualist (other card-carrying members include Mark Dion and David Brooks). Here, a dozen large sheets of paper—covered with drawings, maps, photographs, flyers, e-mails, and handwritten notations—document proposals for projects that were commissioned but never completed. (Among the onslaught of imagery is a design for a water mill inspired by Duchamp's bicycle wheel.) To call Fend's vision grandiose is an understatement, and the tone of his writing can feel defensive, even paranoid. Yet the projects themselves are surprisingly practical, casting the artist as a misunderstood, Earth First! Rumpelstiltskin, ready to spin algae into bio-gas and weeds into methane if only the museums, biennials, and governments he's worked with would honor their word. Through Feb. 12.