

Museum and Gallery Walking Tour

■ TOBI KAHN
JCC ON THE PALISADES
201-569-7900, EXT. 204

Tour guides are like a gallery's in-laws: They come uninvited, they treat everything inside as if it's their own, and they drive away the more desirable (or profitable) guests. So it's nothing short of miraculous that gallery directors like Josie Browne of Max Protetch welcome and praise walking-tour guide Tobi Kahn. A painter and sculptor, and a lecturer at the School of Visual Arts, Kahn not only adds an artist's perspective and technical knowledge to his extensive art-history background, he knows virtually every artist in town, often stopping them on the street to speak with his class. His eye for the trendy and important is uncanny, and his students leave with the ability to view art critically. Classes are kept to a maximum of fifteen students and run during the fall and spring auction seasons, and sporadically during big museum shows (\$190 gets you seven two-hour sessions covering six to ten galleries or one museum). Kahn's waiting list attests to his popularity, but if you don't have the patience, try **Elaine Werblud** at the New School (212-229-5690), who charges \$250 for six two-hour sessions of exhaustive art history and occasional visits to artists' studios. Or **Douglas Maxwell**, a critic, psychotherapist, and contemporary-arts lecturer at NYU (212-998-7130) who gives paintings the equivalent of a session on the couch (\$360 for ten two-hour sessions).