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DAVID ROBILLIARD (1952-88) — Robilliard was one of the freshest talents to emerge from London in the late eighties. Primarily a poet, he also created lean paintings, both sly and naïve, of his poems about youth and beauty, their power and their fragility. The works on view here have a childlike directness and a haunting clarity. Although his work had not fully evolved by the time of his death, it is nonetheless mature and strong. When you read “Everybody’s eyes strained not to look, but like the tide her pull could not be denied” in one of Robilliard’s paintings, you are encountering an artist who understood the properties of power and attraction. Through Oct. 6. (Hirschl & Adler Modern, 851 Madison Ave., at 70th St. Open Mondays.)

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN