



**Goings On About Town**

## **Art**

**May 19, 2008**

**GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN**

**JOSH AZZARELLA**

Invoking the tactics of totalitarian regimes, Azzarella alters visual history, mostly by erasing the photographic record. Instead of a pile of bodies on the famous dirt road in My Lai, all that remains after Azzarella's digital scrubbing is a small red sack. There's no sprawled body and no anguished woman on the campus of Kent State, only a group of milling students. Similarly, famous photographs from Abu Ghraib, Tiananmen Square, and Little Rock and videos of the attacks of September 11th have been turned into non-events. Because our memories automatically fill in these blanks, Azzarella's radical revisions don't blot out the traumas; they revive and reinforce them. Through May 17. (DCKT, 195 Bowery, at Spring St. 212-741-9955.)