

By GRACE GLUECK

Maria Simonds-Gooding (Betty Parsons Gallery, 24 West 57th Street): On a pristine surface of white plaster, Maria Simonds-Gooding draws-incises-paints rudimentary structures in childlike perspective that can be perceived — from the titles of her works — as houses, doorways, ponds, fields, outdoor enclosures. The artist, who lives on a bleak, isolated peninsula on the west coast of Ireland and has spent time in India, evokes a primitive country life at some emotional — as well as geographic — distance from civilization. In the bare-essentials milieu of "Compound and Dwellings," for instance, there are a couple of cockeyed little huts, a fenced enclosure (or is it a pond?) and a crude line of path — a far cry from the upscale compounds of, say, East Hampton. Despite their slightness, these laconic sketches manage to capture a sense of harsh place. (Through tomorrow.)