

## EXHIBITIONS

Wanted in Rome

### Rome

**Enrico Gaillan.** *Until 22 Oct.* Of the many shows that one visits very few are "real art". What makes real art is a highly subjective matter open to discussion *ad infinitum* — but let me only say that I have a lifetime of art experience behind me and, to quote an expression of Gertrude Stein's, "a little bell is ringing" when I see it. The exhibition of Enrico Gaillan is a pleasure. At first you see nothing. There are sly titles like: "Mai visto.", "Solo bianco.", "Impercetibili segni", "Storie di trucchi e di luce". It is mostly white on white. And then it dawns on you: there are layers of paint on top of layers, there are thin quivering lines painted out or their wiry tails left showing: you are in the realm of sheer quiet desperate poetry. The gawky scratchy line has a bit of Twombly in it, the whiteness some of Ryman's layering, the brittle refinement at times becomes cloying, but that is the least of it. The paper-thin panes of these drawings are traced with tracks of moods, revelations, insights, seemingly fleeting — but in the end they are sturdy and lasting imprints of lyrical experience. This is a peculiarly Italian sensibility, ambiguous, shy, and the willed refinement hiding the wit and feeling of a rough diamond. The white canvas of Enrico Gaillan is like a pure melancholy voice fighting to be heard in the wilderness. This gallery, organized by the architect Francesco Moschini, is one of the least commercial galleries in Rome and run with true commitment. Though it puts more emphasis on architecture than on painting, each show here is put together with care, devotion and intelligence. **A.A.M. Gallery** (Architettura Arte Moderna), Via del Vantaggio 12, tel. 3219151.

**Edith Schloss**