

## THE LISTINGS



Bonni Benrubi Gallery

**'BIRTH OF A CULTURE: 60'S AND 70'S SURF PHOTOGRAPHY BY LeROY GRANNIS'** The problem with photographing athletics is that while movement is of the essence in sports, photographs don't move. Surfing doubles the problem. Both the athletes and the playing field are moving quite speedily. What a surfing photographer like LeRoy Grannis wants is to freeze the moment at an instant of maximum tension: the towering wave just before it crashes from a

sheer glassy green wall into frothy chaos; the surfer, an escape artist, scooting along just ahead of the angry white water that threatens to engulf him and take him down. The rider falling like Icarus (above in a photograph from 1966), diving away from his board so as not to be hit by it in the ensuing turbulence, is a good motif, too. Of course, the ocean itself is an eternally photogenic subject, and man against the sea an enduring mythic theme. All these elements plus ro-

mantic nostalgia combine in new, big color prints of images that Mr. Grannis shot in the 60's and 70's. Born in 1917, Mr. Grannis started surfing in the 60's and shortly thereafter took up photography, which earned him major awards for his work for surfing magazines and eventual initiation into the International Surfing Hall of Fame. (Bonni Benrubi, 41 East 57th Street, Manhattan, (212) 888-6007, through Oct. 1.)

KEN JOHNSON