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Paint That Burns Through Narrative

By Regina Hackett. May 19, 2008
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Joy Garnett, image via Platform Gallery

Eden’s On Fire!, Platform Gallery, Seattle
May 8 - June 14, 2008
Saul Becker, Joy Garnett, Michael Schall

Reversing a trend that’s a half-century old, a growing number of painters are not tempted by the impact inherent in size. They work small, usually in oils, and blur the boundary between the figurative and abstract.

Currently at Platform Gallery are the fire paintings of Joy Garnett. Modest in dimension, they have a huge sense of scale. (Garnett is also editor of NEWSgrist.)

Precursors include Thomas Nozkowski (on the abstract end) and Elizabeth Peyton (on the figurative).

Besides Garnett, painters working in this vein include Judith Eisler, Tomory Dodge, Stanley Whitney, Ed Clark and James Lavadour.

If these people were featured in a show, I’d love to see it.