

Elana Gutmann

PAINTINGS & WORKS ON PAPER

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Elana Gutmann, *Enchantment*, 2004, oil on panel, 24" x 48". Perimeter.

ELANA GUTMANN

Perimeter

Elana Gutmann's beguiling suite of abstract paintings brought to mind the weirdly vivid but imperfect reconstructions of dreams one recalls in the morning. Using washes of oil on canvas or panel, she achieved a diaphanous effect in which forms in contrasting colors retain their integrity while seeming to move through each other.

These thinly painted yet lush pictures have a teasing quality as they float in the space between the abstract and the figurative. Meadows and ponds can be made out of stains of pale green and blue, stems and branches out of faint trails of brown and purple, and blooms out of throbbing blotches of red. In *Enchantment* (2004), the outline of a woman's doubled-over torso comes into view on the left side and then vanishes. In *Tender Green* (2005), large expanses of warm yellow and acid green are countered by a single bright spot of red almost sliding off the bottom of the canvas.

The seven oils were shown with seven smaller works on rice paper. These sometimes had the look of deep pools of tinted liquid. One might expect that Gutmann's ethereal visions would be more successful on the gauzy rice paper, but instead they levitate even more effortlessly from the thick slabs of unframed wood.

– Kevin Nance *ARTnews*, November 2006

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