

SAM LEE | GALLERY

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WHAT: "Cries & Whispers"

Sam Lee Gallery

990 North Hill Street #190, Los Angeles

Through June 4



Glenn Goldberg, Borneo Pleasure (2), 2000
Acrylic, ink and gesso on canvas, 17 x 17 inches

HAIKU REVIEW: "Cries & Whispers" brings together a cohort of artists, younger and older, hither and yon, who share a commitment to abstraction, an ability to make abstract form work for them on a small (but not necessarily intimate) scale, and a taste for the eccentric tempered by lyricism. All these artists think in terms of shapes, and indeed display the influence of cartoons and animation no less than that of Picasso, say, or De Kooning. Only a few of them go for broad humor - which they prove abstraction is eminently capable of - but they all make their (and the gallery's) compressed size work for them in a genial way. This is funny, or at least fun, painting; it doesn't lack for gravitas, it simply presumes that being composed soundly provides a sufficient springboard from which to tell an abstruse but elegant joke. Notable in the show are works by veteran painters John Pearson, Glenn Goldberg, Robin Mitchell, William Conger, Andrew Spence, and Jeff Gambill.

- Peter Frank