LILLIAN BAYLEY HOOVER

AS IT IS

APRIL 12 - MAY 29, 2013

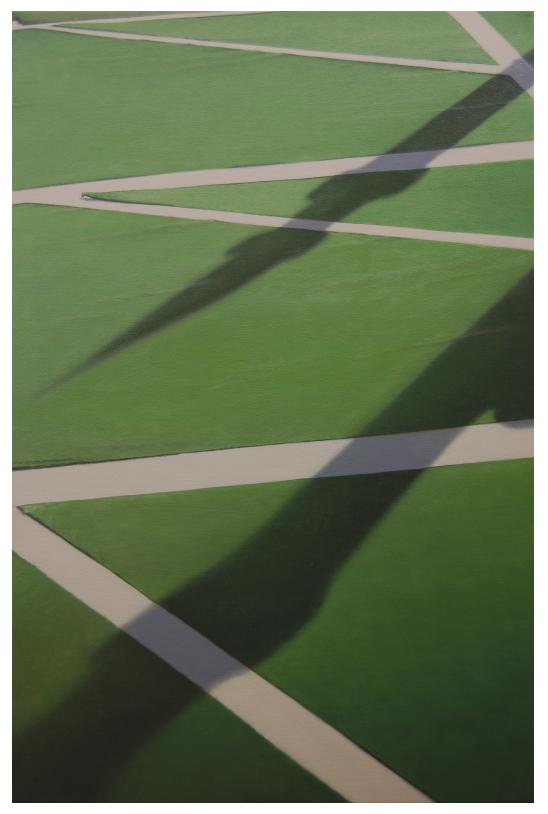










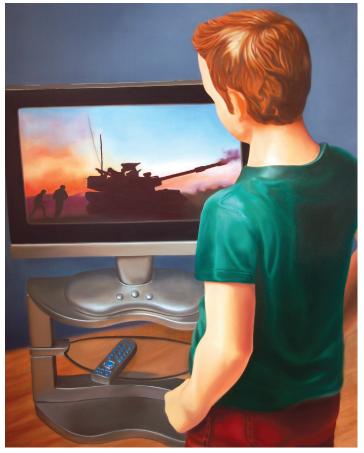












LILLIAN BAYLEY HOOVER

MICHAEL SALCMAN. © EXCERPTED FROM LITTLE PAXUXENT REVIEW, SUMMER 2011, EXPANDED IN 2013.

"How does a young painter today make peace with an art world in which photography and image-mediated reality reign supreme, an art world supposedly after the end of Modernism, in which self-reflexive art-historical irony is all the rage (i.e. Post-Modernism), hierarchical thinking has disappeared and painting is thought dead except in the hands of Gerhard Richter? If you are Lillian Bayley Hoover (b.1980) you ignore the bad news, learn everything you can about the constantly mutating form and function of painting, and soldier right ahead... Richter believes in the essential equivalency of abstraction and representation... Hoover does not avoid this conflict; she too makes paintings out of photographs but, increasingly, she combines realism and abstraction on the same canvas... In fact, Lillian Hoover [sometimes] has chosen to go Richter one step better by making paintings based on photographs of imaginary structures constructed through the conceptual model-making or table-top strategy of Casabere and Demand... [in her work] there is a whiff of the romantic and a frank desire to create an emotional response within the viewer... The three-step process of model-making, photographing and painting results in a subtle chilling effect or "distancing," an emotional coolness superficially similar to that of Richter's, in which the viewer is encouraged to spend time slowly surveying the surface of the painting without immediately engaging its possibly incendiary content... Hoover is highly aware of the theoretical situation surrounding her own work. She constantly challenges her technical proficiency by creating compositional "errors" to cue the viewer, create unease and challenge our expectations of a "perfect" painting... area[s] empty of any realistic reference clearly indicate Hoover's profound and growing interest in the abstract composition of her pictures and her blank color scale echoes Richter's favorite palette of silvery grays. The new architectural paintings also link her to a much vounger German artist. Eberhard Havekost (b.1967) of Dresden..."

In Hoover's most recent paintings the tension between reality and unreality, between representation and abstraction, is further heightened by reduced scale. Her image-mediated sources have shifted from models she has made or found to her own domestic environment. Through severe almost-photographic cropping, a narrow chromatic palette, and the collision of objects across sharply cut borders, Hoover produces an effect similar to that of the early collage-based paintings of Rosenquist. Like his push-button phone and Marilyn's teeth, the partial views of wall-panels and power cords make her subjects seem strangely foreign. In the end, her sophisticated paintings give of themselves on many levels; while the mind can spend too much time on method and theory, the eye remains beguiled by their (we have no better word) beauty. This is very smart work.

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1. STALL 2013 OIL ON PANEL 16 × 12 INCHES

WINDOW 2013

OIL ON PANEL 18 × 24 INCHES

3. CORDS 2012

OIL ON PANEL 18 × 12 INCHES

4. GESSOED PANELS 2012

OIL ON PANEL

12 × 18 INCHES

5. STRIKE PLATE 2013

OIL ON PANEL 22 × 10 INCHES

6. STAIRS AND MOLDING

OIL ON PANEL 16 × 12 INCHES

SITES OF POWER

7. SULEYMANIYE 2011 OIL ON CANVAS

OIL ON CANVAS 34 × 22 INCHES

8. HALICARNASSUS 2012

OIL ON CANVAS 24 × 35 INCHES

9. MEMORIAL 2012

2012

OIL ON CANVAS 36 × 22 INCHES

FROM HERE

10. STOP 2007

OIL ON CANVAS 56 × 42 INCHES

11. AMERICAN SUMMER

OIL ON CANVAS 40 × 54 INCHES

12. WAR TV

OIL ON CANVAS 58 × 46 INCHES



COOLER
2012
OIL ON PANEL
18 × 12 INCHES
COVER & LEFT

3000 Chestnut Avenue Mill Centre 214 Baltimore, Maryland 21211

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