

GARY GAGLIANO

Painting

6 February – 1 March, 2008

HP Garcia Gallery is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of paintings by the New York based artist Gary Gagliano. The exhibition continues from 6 February through 1 March, 2008.

In his work, Gagliano raises questions about the ephemerality of the work of art and deals with the idea of norm relativity, when an encounter with a metaphysical dimension goes beyond the immediately recognizable. What is explored here, through the artist's use of his organic or biomorphic metaphors and through his aesthetics of empathy and the sublime, is the conflation of the contemplative and the *prima materia*, the groundedness of factual materiality.

In terms of its formal structure, Gagliano's work is strongly materialistic. Looking at his three dimensional enamel surfaces carefully laid on top of his canvases, evokes the feeling of the near-glandular materials and a tactile quality of fluid, glistening, multiplying structure. In artist's words, "No piece is less extraordinary than the next. It is a community where there is power in numbers coming together to create one thing... They create their own shadows, they shadow themselves, they shadow others in return reflecting light just the same, but in a moment they will change..."

This materiality, however, is confronted by a sense of profound dematerialization. As Jonathan Goodman states: "Gary Gagliano's remarkable paintings nearly overwhelm the viewer with their repetitions of both material and spirit... The paintings themselves, which are marvels of physical and metaphysical restraint, work as sophisticated patterns of the mind. He is an example of a new kind of postulant, whose more worldly activities in New York are actually encouraged by the monks he visits in the Thai mountains near Burma. There is something very beautiful in the conflation of such different traditions, and Gagliano's awareness intelligently brings together experiences that others might take as differently inspired or even opposed".

HP Garcia Gallery is located at 580 Eighth Avenue, 7th floor, @ 38th Street in Manhattan. The gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 to 6 pm. For more information and visuals, please contact the gallery at 212.354.7333, or visit hpgarciagallery.com.

