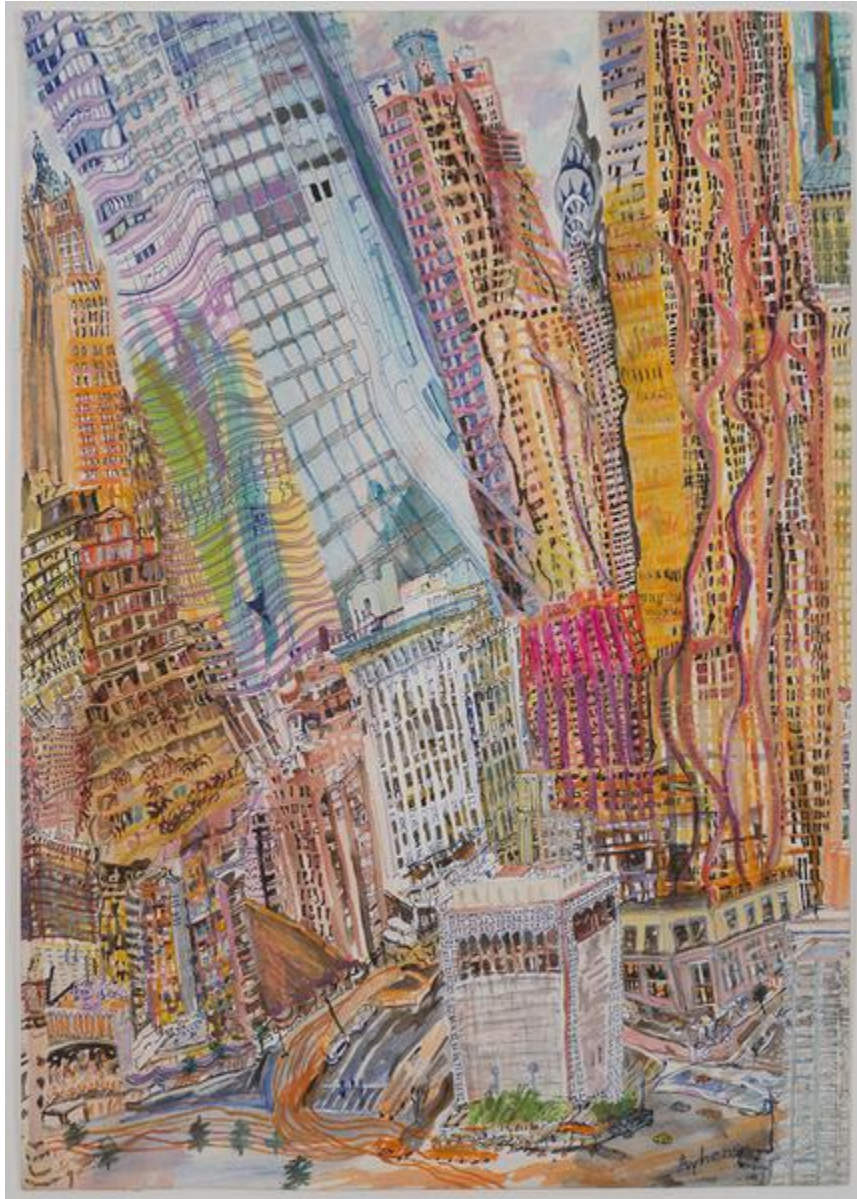


William Eckhardt Kohler- Painting Lives!

Art reviews, my art, art world

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Olive Ahyens, Farewell NYC for now, 2013, watercolor, ink, wax and graphite, 22×16"

Down Orchard St, at Lesley Heller Workspace, Olive Ahyens curated a show titled 'Enticing Luminosity'. Ahyens' cityscape drawings present the Apollonian triumph of Manhattan tower-dom (above) as something, wobbly, uncertain and temporary. From the always lively Judith

Linhares, three flower paintings bring solidity and bounce to the moment in the floral life just as they begin to wilt. In a way they share the quality of imminent collapse of Ahyens' drawings. Rather than a mood of doom though there is a sense of the moment of beauty seized and fully engaged; particularity in Linhares' vigorous and sensuous paint handling.



Judith Linhares, April, 2010, oil on linen, 22×26", courtesy Edward Thorp Gallery

I had not previously seen the tragi-comic works of M Louise Stanley. 'Rich Lady Languishing' hits the archetypal chord of fantasy opulence. Like the previous two works there is a clear feeling that this moment cannot possibly last, and may in fact be a retrospective gaze into a world simultaneously rotted and desirable.



M Louise Stanley, Rich Lady Languishing, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 40×30"

Still on Orchard St., at DCKT Gallery, another group show, 'Shorthand', curated by Trudy Benson and Russel Tyler, which focuses on works that 'impart eloquent, direct brevity'. The paintings of Andrea Belag are done with hard-won simplicity of means, using very large brushes and wet-in wet viscous paint, producing moments of pleasure and surprise. With 'In Time' red paint from the lower portion of the canvas carries into the blue upper portion suggesting a sunset glow such as those favored by the 19th century Luminist painters.