

SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

New American Paintings Blog
October 2011

JOHN MCALLISTER AT JAMES FUENTES GALLERY

by New American Paintings
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In his fourth solo exhibition at James Fuentes Gallery on the Lower East Side, John McAllister (on Curator Anne Ellegood's list of recommended painters, as seen in NAP #97) presents a series of medium and larger scale paintings that touch on Modernism, Fauvism, Zen, and interior design. The works in *Damned Sparkling Pomp* vibrate with lush color, swatches of pattern and abbreviated paintings of paintings, a la Matisse. These flattened interior scenes emphasize the push and pull of the material and flat picture plane, suggesting depth within the foremost layer in flattened space. Within the larger painting, the suggested paintings are often askew, slightly disturbing the evenness and balance of the outer borders. Unlike Matisse's *Red Studio (1911)*, which depicts paintings arranged in a flattened, red artist's studio, McAllister has painted his paintings into cropped views of luxurious domestic walls, an element in an overall design and color scheme. Mixing a reverence for painting's history with a tongue-in-cheek nod to the realities of being a contemporary painter, McAllister's works are fresh and nostalgic, if not also a little breathtaking. - *Alex Ebstein, Baltimore Contributor*



Damned Sparkling Pomp at James Fuentes LLC installation view

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Under Spells Spelled Vital, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 35x 29 inches

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Darksome Almost Dawn, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 58 x 49 inches

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Darksome Almost Dawn, Detail

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Rioutous Gleaming Jungly, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 31 x 25 inches

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Flora Florae, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 31 x 25 inches

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Solstice Sometimes, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 35 x 29 inches

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When Runs Silence, 2011, Oil on Canvas, 58 x 49 inches

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John McAllister is a 2007 MFA graduate from the Art Center College of design and a 2007 Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA grant recipient. In 2011, he will have participated in group exhibitions at The Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, David Kordansky, Los Angeles and White Flag Projects, Saint Louis and held solo exhibitions at Ribordy Contemporary, Geneva. He was born in Slidell, Louisiana and is based in Los Angeles, California.

Alex Ebsstein is a Baltimore based writer, artist, and co-director of Nudashank.

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