



Review: Works by James Esber and Jane Fine

D. Eric Bookhardt on new paintings in the St. Claude district

Two masters of iconic profusion have paintings on view at The Front. James Esber once staged a show of multiple renderings of Osama bin Laden in which the jihadist resembled a demonic biblical prophet cooked alive in a microwave. But everything Brooklyn-based Esber and partner Jane Fine paint deploys this sort of wavy-gravy, over-the-top representation, like a visual echo chamber of resonant distortions that evoke the way mass media slices and dices anything and everything in its digital meat grinder, transforming reality into a kind of electronic mulch. Esber and Fine follow a pixelated gingerbread trail to some elusive truth only they can see, and then share slices of it with the rest of us as miraculous forensic evidence.

D. ERIC BOOKHARDT

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