

The Detroit News

Abstracts and animals at David Klein Gallery

- Michael H. Hodges, Detroit News Fine Arts Writer *3:38 p.m. EDT March 30, 2016*

Two shows beckon at the David Klein Gallery's handsome, airy new space on Washington in downtown Detroit — “Kim McCarty: From the Studio” and “Rosalind Tallmadge: Nocturnes.”

Both shows are up till April 23.

Taking the latter first, if as a child you loved the “glitter” crayons — gold, silver and copper — you're going to love Tallmadge's huge, gorgeous abstracts hanging in the front of the gallery.

Take her “Honey (the salt of your skin),” in which a rough copper surface is interrupted by patches of dull green and dun. Like most of the 2015 Cranbrook Academy of Art grad's “Nocturnes,” this is an impressively layered work, crafted from — take a deep breath — metal leaf, glass beads, pigment, glitter and oil on sequin fabric. Did you get that?

It all seems key, however, to generating the remarkable, almost 3-D depth that Tallmadge achieves with her vast canvases. A particularly striking example is “Sun at Midnight,” where clouds like coal dust bump up against luminous red and copper below. It's a stormier composition than some of Tallmadge's other pieces, but every bit as beautiful.

For a completely different experience, both artistically and emotionally, check out Los Angeles artist McCarty's watercolors in the back of the gallery.

These sketches of women and winsome animals (bunnies, horses, and one hedgehog) are composed with a “wet-on-wet” watercolor technique that gives these portraits a fleeting, evanescent quality that belies their technical mastery.

The artist has a particular talent for longing. The pair in “Twin Dogs” may be sitting, like good pups, but you can almost feel their pent-up desire to explode and move.

MORGAN LEHMAN

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Or consider McCarty's portraits of women that focus mostly on adolescence, and what the artist calls the "transitory and emergent" nature of that age group.

Poised between uncertainty and conviction, these young women radiate yearning, apprehension and hope — a remarkably complex psychology accomplished in just a few brushstrokes.

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'Kim McCarty: From the Studio' and 'Rosalind Tallmadge: Nocturnes'

Through April 23

David Klein Gallery, 1520 Washington, Detroit

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

(313) 818-3416

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