

David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for November

David Ebony, Friday, November 21, 2014



Darren Waterston, Triptych Twilight (2014).
Courtesy of DC Moore.

9.) Darren Waterston at DC Moore, through December 20 "Split the Lark," represents a significant breakthrough for Darren Waterston, a New York-based painter known for his semi-abstract, surrealist-tinged paintings with images that consistently waver between the real and the fantastic. Strange birds appear to take flight in one image. Or are they simply calligraphic flourishes of the brush? A landscape reference may appear, but on closer inspection evaporates into an amorphous haze. Architectural structures may be apparent for a moment, but suddenly recede into abstract planes.

In this show, Waterston incorporates three-dimensional elements into the mix, and the combination works well. Coinciding with his museum show, "Filthy Lucre" at MASS MoCA, on view through February 23, in which Waterston re-creates Whistler's fabled Peacock Room, "Split the Lark," features arcane furniture-like constructions, such as confessional partitions and freestanding frames. Waterston embeds the canvases into these various supports to create a kind of painting-sculpture hybrid. It's a risky strategy, perhaps; but rather than distract from the painted images, the 3-D elements tend to enhance them.