

Meyer, Ruth K. "Pure Painters Painting, Nancy Fletcher-Cassell and Dana Saulnier at the Weston Gallery." *IRhine Magazine* 6 Jun. 2004: *IRhine .com*, review of exhibit at Weston Art Gallery, Cincinnati, OH, http://www.irhine.com/index.jsp?page=home_weston060604

Excerpt of review:

It is well known that the Weston Gallery at the Aronoff Center offers regional artist the best showcase for their works. During the current round of exhibitions, ending June 12, your destination should be the two great painting shows on the lower (main gallery) level. Pairing Nancy Fletcher Cassell and Dana Saulnier resulted in two solo shows that are distinctive in style the complementary in quality. This exhibition is truly work major sophistication in our own backyard. This is the best the painting has offer.

Saulnier's work is highly dramatic. Large canvases become spaces you feel you could move into if you dared, but their mood turbulent, nightmarish, risky and perilous. I liked the way his work reached out for emotional involvement through color, contrasts of light versus dark and powerful brushwork. The palette is 16th-century Venetian like those of Titian and Tintoretto. Beautiful reds and golds and flesh tones weave suggestively through the canvas without a single fully formed figure appearing.

There are no carefully delineated architectural elements or fancy costumes, but you still feel that Saulnier has looked long and lovingly at the masters of western art. Flashes of illumination shoot through gloomy spaces like lightning, and the paint clouds form, activated by marks and gestures of the brush rippling on the surface. Wow.

The titles of the show and of the paintings gives some clues to Saulnier's motivations: *Icons of Absence: Icons of Presence*. His Artist's statement is a little more explicit. It says in part: "In my most recent work multiple figural masses emerge and merge in dialogue with each other within the encompassing space nature. Nature thoughts metaphorically. The atmosphere is dense with the emotion, gesture and language. Small dramas unfold. The sensuality of painting and the directness of drawing are means to convey the bodily experience of being within space." This is pure painting, pure emotion pinned and wriggling on the canvas like a collector's butterfly...