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“In the Galleries” By Mark Jenkins



Maggie Siner

The party's over in Maggie Siner's blocky, yet fluid oils of tables lined with half-empty glasses and beds strewn with clothing. "The Language of Painting," the artist's Susan Calloway Fine Arts show, is full of rumpled sheets and tablecloths. The cloth is usually white, its folds conjured by deft strokes of gray and pale blue. But one of the largest of these pictures adds the tension of the complementary colors of its title, "Red Dress on Green Bed."

Siner, whose sensuous work has been in several recent shows, offers here a more comprehensive survey. It turns out that fabric in her pictures isn't always disembodied: There's a woman in a blue dress, although with her back to the viewer, and several separate views of an apparently unclothed man under the sheets on what seems to be the same morning after. The connection between the attire and the person who wears it, always hinted in Siner's paintings, is rendered explicit.

The selection also includes a dozen appealing small landscapes of urban Italy and rural France. Siner depicts solid things such as stone buildings and fields full of lavender, but makes them appear more transitory than her other paintings' domestic objects. She captures the scene as it registers in a glance, not as it has existed for centuries. A spontaneous brushstroke can rumple history.

Maggie Siner: The Language of Painting Through Feb. 16 at Susan Calloway Fine Arts, 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-at-strathmore-artists-illuminate-the-darkness/2019/02/07/76375056-28ac-11e9-8eef-0d74f4bf0295_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.1c39c6830b2f