

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Bruce Hainley, "Best of 2013" *Artforum*, December 2013.

ARTFORUM



Maureen Gallace, *Beach #2*, 2013, oil on panel, 10 x 13".

1 MAUREEN GALLACE (OVERDUIN AND KITE, LOS ANGELES) We live in a time of a lot of very bad art. (Has it ever been otherwise?) Not long ago, Frederick Seidel summed the situation up: so much “heat but no warmth.” He was alluding to empty sublimity that routs actual intensity. Gallace, however, makes some of the most intense paintings going. Luminous grays, gliss-andos of white, and auroral pinks and oranges dramatize her precise blues. In her “seascapes,” if that’s not too faggy a term, waves crash upon the shore and the horizons disappear—which is not a minor event for a painter who always considers *grounding*. While the artist’s photographs (one was reproduced as the show’s announcement card) document specific locales and buildings, some already dismantled by environmental or economic havoc, the paintings trans-migrate soulfulness more than they do any topography. Gallace dissolves ongoing nattering about abstraction and representation, achieving the rare, staunch beauty of the quietly hard-won.