

Art With Overtones of Terror, Torture and Violence

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The Jeremy Stone Gallery is presenting paintings by three Bay Area artists: Brice Bowman, Marshall Crossman, and Joan Towers.

All three work in an expressionist vein; however, the intensity of their paintings collectively reads as a stance, an attitude, rather than as believable emotional pitch. It is almost as though this show had been chosen to prove that the pictorial idioms of shrill color, choppy imagery and crusted surface have been played out. Only Marshall Crossman's paintings relieve the prevailing sense of enervation.

Look at Crossman's paintings for a few minutes before you check their titles and you may see that they have a common representational pretext, the image of a swimmer doing taps in a pool. This theme licenses her flashy brushwork and translucent color. Although I think she relies too much on white, her paintings looked better to me the more I studied them, while Towers' and Bowmans' began to look as though their obsolescence had been planned.