

SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

Art on Paper
July 2006



Ann Craven at Gasser Grunert, New York

In this exhibition all the paintings were the same as in my previous show at the gallery, except that they were doubled in size. Taken together, the shows were like a snowball. The first time I hung up the paintings it was a little snowball. Then after two years of rolling around picking up more and more snow the ball was much bigger. So that is just how I left it. I am not sure if others were even aware of what I did. In a way, though, it was not about that. I just wanted to see the same show again, only larger. Now I am rethinking the whole scale thing. I have seen enough hack artists wasting stretchers and canvas lately to realize it is all getting a bit ridiculous. Sure, Americans are downsizing to small, more fuel-efficient cars, but this trend does not seem to have been picked up on yet by most artists in the work they make (big SUV's still attract big wasters, but hopefully that will soon

change, too). There really is not a reason for a graduate student to make a 24-foot-long by 16-foot-high painting—especially when the painting depicts, say, something as important as a psychedelic Inuit village. All of my paintings can be seen as simple in content, or my brushstrokes as virtuosic. Currently, they are fuel-efficient cars, designed to go great distances, with the minimal amount of waste, and that snowball is history.

—By Ann Craven

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