

NEW YORK

"Quick While Still" @ Heist Gallery

It is well known that many commercial properties in Manhattan are sitting vacant because of the economy, and for the past year quite a few pop-up or temporary exhibitions have appeared in these empty spaces to take advantage of what is essentially free or reduced rent. "Quick While Still," curated by Colin Huerter and presented by Heist Gallery, took advantage of a long, bare-bones space at 143 Madison Avenue that was in need of renovation to display large-scale paintings by six New York-based artists. Katherine Bernhardt's *Borgo Nuovo* and *Lite Blue* (both 2009) painted in acrylic and spray paint on canvas, depicted Swatch brand watches in her quick and gestural style that she has become recognized for. The odd-shaped, sculptural paintings of Wendy White also stood out, with *Reformer* (2009) a particularly strong grouping of geometric forms, some of which are hollow. Covered in canvas that she has scribbled on, stained and masked-off, the faded hues are in sharp contrast with their asymmetry. While not as extreme as Bernhardt or White, Mark Gibson's ink-and-acrylic landscapes set off a mysterious mood with a loose, yet confident hand and were another highlight of this collection of works meant to highlight the materiality of paint and the act of painting itself.

—Chris Bors