



Jennifer Riley

To Be A Thing In This World

March 26- April 25, 2009

Jennifer Riley *Modernissimo* 2009 Oil on Canvas 38 x 44

LaViolaBank Gallery is pleased to present *To Be A Thing In This World*, the first solo exhibition in New York of painter Jennifer Riley.

Comprised of oil paintings that vary in scale and format, Riley employs the basic elements of line, plane and ground to investigate concepts of painterly language with abstract and figurative imagery, speaking to a cosmic timetable.

Riley's longtime interest in classical art, architecture and atmosphere is filtered through the tools of 20th and 21st century abstraction, pop abstraction, and contemporary figuration, and asks us to consider the conceptual possibilities available to painting today and where it could go from here.

Pattern, fracture, shifts and realignments recapture the dynamic movement that underlies everything from the ocean's floor to a modernist building. The works have vibrancy and intensity in both form and color and range from the an elemental starburst of color to abstracted figure and landscape.

Riley's work has a recognition of the history of story telling, myth, cultural lore and icons from differing centuries and continents and understands how the past is comprehended and experienced in this moment. The work is not lampooning the scale and scope of the ocean, a volcano, a Roman myth- instead, Riley's paintings show us that we are in a place to recapture these elements as remembrances and forms that have been sidelined in our own culture as immediate and ironic; that it is possible to re-engage some of these dialogues by putting them back in play.

Ultimately what Jennifer Riley presents us with is an homage to change, to moving forward – this is a narrative of heroics.