
AROUND THE GALLERIES

Gobs create romantic themes

Allison Schulnik's painting "Flowers for Visitor #3" is only 20 inches square, but it must have at least a half-pound of oil paint on it. The mixed floral bouquet depicted in a clear glass vase is built up from gobs of goo, making the painting as much a temporal gift of perishable loveliness as the flowers represented.

At Mark Moore Gallery, Schulnik's paintings often focus on romantic subjects stereotypically linked to adolescent girls — horses, cats, flowers, Niagara Falls, etc. She pumps up a bracing sense of assertiveness with her paint application, larding it on, scraping it off, piling it up, forming it into an almost sculptural relief.

These works take an evident

cue from Laura Owens, but most of them remain too much under her spell. The best painting is "White Visitor #2," mostly because its inexplicable ghostly figure is just plain weird. Schulnik needs to keep pushing in that inventive direction.

Mark Moore Gallery, Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 453-3031, through Saturday. www.markmooregallery.com