

Julie Heffernan: Sky's Falling

Sat, Dec 08, 2012

Sky's Falling showcases the latest incarnations of an ongoing oeuvre of distinctive self-portraits in which quite interior worlds of personal symbolism are made exterior allegories. Closes December 22 at Mark Moore Gallery.



Despite their autobiographical quality, Heffernan's images proffer a larger discourse concerning our anthropocentric worldview – a sociopolitical attitude that has resulted in an ecological clash with nature.

As with her previous self-portraits, Heffernan's recent paintings function as metaphors of a surrogate-self, engendering both the intimate world of the psyche, as well as the societal undercurrents of the present moment. Heffernan's tableaux are rife with idiosyncratic references that draw the eye deep into a cryptic, mythical puzzle of overabundance waiting to be solved. Simultaneously, this concentration on personal mythos is filled with an impassioned atmosphere, in which an irrepressible force, namely nature, threatens to reclaim its own narrative. The result is an ominous parable, as if from a Grimm's fairy tale, warning us of our follies, and foretelling an apex at which biology and humanity will collide.