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GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

CARAGH THURING

Breezily elegant abstractions of fragmented landscapes confirm the Belgian-born Londoner as a rising star of painting. Thinly limned, brushed and dribbled on raw linen, in colors like pastels left out in the rain, piquant and sometime referential shapes (a boat, a ladder, trees) keep their own counsel amidst fiestas of no-big-deal inspiration. Art-historical allusions - to Manet's "Dejeuner" and, via that, to Titian - emerge when sought. These are dubious longueurs, nudging work of promising originality toward academic pastiche. Truly clever artists, of whom Thuring might be one, don't so kittenishly advertise their cleverness. Through Nov. 1. (Simon Preston Gallery, 301 Broome St. 212-431-1105.)