

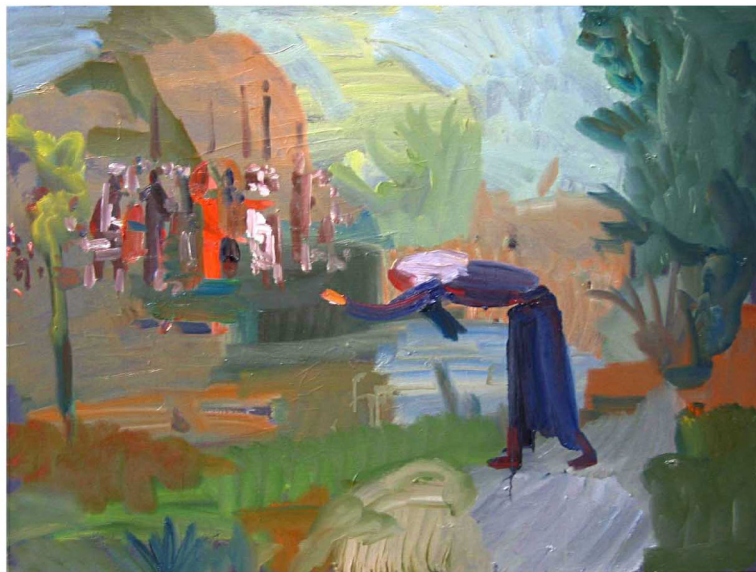
ANNA ZORINA GALLERY



Recommendations

by R.C. Baker

May 1, 2007



John Bradford, Jacob and Esau, acrylic, oil on canvas.

JOHN BRADFORD

RECENT WORK: BIBLICAL SUBJECTS

Here is the baby Moses, all quick pink daubs for arm and face, a blue cone for the servant bending over the tarred basket, lithe orange flourishes for bulrushes, and a gray column for Pharaoh's imperious daughter. Elsewhere, a dark interior frames a sunlit opening, these rectangles locked together by a blocky brazier with orange flames that echo nearby palm fronds. Two bodies lie in the gloom—a few deft strokes contrast a father's stumbling shock with Moses' stern, upright carriage as God's messenger. These 14 biblical scenes, painted with a drippy, Abstract Expressionist brio, are devoid of both fundamentalist didacticism and secular snarkiness, while beautifully evoking the imperfect humanity underlying the divine. *55 Mercer Gallery, 55 Mercer, 212-226-8513. Through May 19.*