

The New York Times

ART & DESIGN

Museum and Gallery Listings for Dec. 24-30

DEC. 23, 2010

Last Chance

John Bradford: 'Painting the Biblical Narrative'; closes on Friday. Few contemporary artists are angling for the title of Best Old Testament Painter, but John Bradford is definitely in the running. Voluptuous yet brusque and starkly minimal, his oils capture the essential human dramas of Genesis, Exodus and others with brushwork that operates somewhere between Giorgio Morandi and middle-period De Kooning. Events — which include the drunkenness of Noah and the expulsion of Hagar — are loosely indicated, which creates a sense of actual, sometimes violent motion and agony. It also allows light, color and brushwork to work their redemptive magic. Bowery Gallery, 530 West 25th Street, Chelsea, bowerygallery.org.

-ROBERTA SMITH