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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

KENNETH BAKER *Galleries*

Gaylord's screen memories:

Former Bay Area (now Brooklyn) painter Jim Gaylord dares to call attention to the obvious disadvantage of painting in a culture of flickering screens — its static nature — confident that he has evolved a way of making his art seem to keep pace.

A series of pieces here hints at his methods. They show bits of imagery stacked against a gouache ground on what look like acetate animation cells. Their titles indicate what the eye may suspect but cannot discern — their whimsical summation of details lifted from popular movies, especially from the horror and fantasy genres. Example: “Study (Apocalypto + Dreamcatcher + Braveheart + Hancock + The Fury)” (2009).

Probably viewers who have seen most or all of Gaylord's source movies will scan his pictures for recognizable borrowings. The rest of us may

The success of Gaylord's best pieces consists in their capacity to mobilize imagination in a way that feels cinematic.



Gregory Lind Gallery

“The Examples of Our Power,” (2008), gouache on paper by Jim Gaylord.

have the advantage in that, for us, everything in Gaylord's work will resist recognition.

His shuffling of image fragments risks settling into a kind of lazy surrealism. But when it works, as in the big gouache on paper “The Examples of Our Power” (2008), a remarkably involving bafflement of eye and mind results.

It owes something to technique, as both the gouaches

and canvases such as “Intersection” (2008) and “A Wit Among Lords” (2008) attest. But the success of Gaylord's best pieces consists in their capacity to mobilize imagination in a way that feels almost, well, cinematic.

Bafflement in static visual art usually spells arrest. But Gaylord's delicate juggling of depiction, elision, color and touch gets the mind going. If

that puts his art beyond analysis, so much the better.

Jim Gaylord: Cliffhanger:

Paintings on canvas and paper. Through March 14. Gregory Lind Gallery, 49 Geary St., San Francisco. (415) 296-9661, www.gregorylindgallery.com.