

# Art review: Jeff Epstein and Henry Isaacs

Painting still has a lot to say about how we see

BY DANIEL KANY

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### Portland Press Herald

I told Epstein I wanted to compare his work with the picture I saw in the paper, he explained that he consciously manipulates the distinction between what you see in his works in person as opposed to reproductions.

No one should be surprised that a painter is concerned both with easy-to-see-andreproduce graphic qualities and subtle surface textures that can only be seen in person.

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### ART REVIEW

### "JEFF EPSTEIN: PAINTINGS"

**WHERE**: Art House Picture Frames, 61 Pleasant St., Portland

WHEN: Through Nov. 30

**HOURS**: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

INFO: arthousepictureframes.com; 221-3443

### • PAINTINGS BY HENRY ISAACS: "NEW WORK"

**WHERE**: Gleason Fine Art, 545 Congress St., Portland

WHEN: Through Nov. 30

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Yet, from a conceptual standpoint, art rarely puts in play the difference between seeing it on a computer screen, then on a postcard and then in person. Moreover, nothing can handle such an experiential/perceptual range with the refinement, subtlety or intellectual back end of painting.

Epstein's paintings are small and executed with a confident hand. They feature low key images of suburban or rural domestic landscapes: a birdhouse, the artist's blue Subaru parked by hostas, a view between a house and shed, a half-mowed lawn and so on.

Epstein's expertly energized marks are impressively economical and varied: drawing back through the oil with the handle point of the brush, paint-clearing slashes of the palette knife, winding strokes, staccato rhythms and more – all in the service of well-textured clarity.

> w "Sam's Car" printed. Parked in a dark field starry, starry night, a humble sedan plays the lantern – its interior is flooded with light pills into the field around it. Such a beacon graphic clarity, but it also hints of an untold

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