

11 / 30 / 2010

William Villalongo | Susan Inglett Gallery

This week is your last chance to catch Brooklyn-based artist **William Villalongo's** dynamic and vibrant paintings at the **Susan Inglett Gallery**. Villalongo's exuberant images of nude nymphs frolicking in the great outdoors and engaging in wild revelry pay tribute to the "ornate stylings of the Late Baroque period" (from show's press release) yet are set in present times. The artist's elaborate canvases depicting young women playing and partying in the woods and splashing and swimming in ponds aren't just about fun and games—according to the press release, the works "tell a tale of lust and depravity, greed and envy."

Villalongo explains on his website: "I shamelessly rummage and appropriate iconic and not so iconic mass cultural imagery, with a base in African-American and American history and their respective vernacular. My goal is to orchestrate a conversation between history and art which could give us the progressive discussions of the future. I believe that our histories are metabolized, they mutate and are more alive in us when regarded as question. Social and cultural histories are in a constant cycle of being told and retold." Villalongo's paintings may emulate styles and works from the past, but they showcase empowered, independent women from today. Learn more at Inglettgallery.com and at the artist's website Williamvillalongo.com. Through December 4th.

*You can see more of Villalongo's paintings from this series in *Next Wave* at BAM, Brooklyn Academy of Music, until December 19th.