

Staff, "Robyn O'Neil", MODERN PAINTERS, February 2012, p. 83.

MODERN PAINTERS

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Robyn O'Neil

Susan Inglett Gallery // October 13 – November 23

So sprightly is the hand that created the drawings in O'Neil's works that one's first impression is of insouciance. The pieces include collaged elements—also drawings—that punch up the play of texture and depth. They seem puckish rather than ponderous. But the show's title "Hell", gives the game away. O'Neil's tiny figures—and in the central work, a 14-foot-long triptych, there are more than 65,000 of them—are not romping; they're writing in pain. People screech from the agony of wounds; arms stretch desperately from a crater; and a mound of bodies serves as a pyre upon which to immolate an enormous severed head. The scene is infernal, but its effect is heavenly.