

# The Boston Globe

## Small Details

By Cate McQuaid | Globe Correspondent

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“Painting Intricacies” at Nave Gallery Annex revels in the small details of good painting. The large group show, organized by painter Resa Blatman, has a strong roster of artists, led by Anne Harris, who handles translucency and skin tone with such delicacy her creepy figures shimmer. In “Max,” blue veins line an infant’s scalp. He’s all crumpled folds and pudgy fists, a newborn, alien to our world.

The show whizzes giddily from portraiture to landscape, from representation to abstraction, and it succeeds because such themes are always secondary to technique. David Palmquist’s lovely “Green Ranch House” rushes past in a slick, Gerhard Richter-like horizontal blur, except the details are utterly readable: the station wagon in the drive, the low roof, the cables arcing overhead; perhaps we feel even hungrier for those details because we’re only glimpsing them on a drive-by. A handful of Emily Eveleth’s sumptuous doughnuts, on small blocks of wood, exult in the sweet juiciness of paint.

Street artist Caleb Neelon offers a wonderfully cartoony canvas, “Insolationists,” in which he abstracts a stone tower into a spiky circle, populated hopefully with eggs, as an everyman with a bulbous nose and a red hat holds on for dear life, as stars twinkle behind him. Jordan Stabile paints hyper-real paintings of folded-open spiral notebooks, coolly precise.

**On the abstract end of things, Lynda Schlosberg’s dizzyingly layered “Glacial Matrix” wheels with patterns of dots and stripes, streaming and dipping like a fishnet in a river.**

Then there’s John Guthrie’s “Hotwax,” a flat X shape with broad limbs that slips off its axis at the middle. Each color on its own (browns, grays, a blue, a red) seems solid and strong, but together they appear furtive, as if they’re shy and holding back where they meet. Maybe the form’s near miss triggers that effect; the resulting tensions are loaded, like awkward silences at a family party.

*For more information:*

Painting Intricacies

At: Nave Gallery Annex,

53 Chester St., Somerville, through May 4, 2014.

[www.navegallery.org](http://www.navegallery.org)