

# TWO COATS OF PAINT



November 16, 2011

## *Elizabeth Gilflen: Pugilist painter*

1:03 pm by Sharon Butler



*Elizabeth Gilflen, Untitled, 2011, oil on canvas, 76 x 65 inches.*

For Elizabeth Gilflen painting is a collision, an aggressive search in which the object and maker are intimately, irrevocably entwined. Gilflen's exploration of piercing color and gestural abstraction continues in her exhibition of new large-scale work at Gallery Aferro this month. In many of her untitled paintings (sorry I can't refer to specific ones) Gilflen wrestles images from a thicker scum of agitated brushwork than in previous work, but in other less vigorously-worked paintings like "Sit" and "Cricket Fix" a more relaxed direction emerges. Gilflen is the opposite of a casualist—clearly she likes a good skirmish—and her new paintings look terrific—bolder and more challenging than earlier work. "Two Moons," the title of the exhibition, refers to recent evidence that the earth used to have two orbiting masses which eventually became unstable and merged into one.

But I imagine they didn't go without a long and interesting struggle.



*Elizabeth Gilfilen, "Sit," 2011, oil on canvas, 37 x 31.25 inches.*



*Elizabeth Gilfilen, Untitled, 2011, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches.*



*Elizabeth Gilfilen, "Cricket Fix," 2011, oil on canvas, 43 x 34 inches.*

**"Elizabeth Gilfilen: Two Moons,"** Gallery Aferro, Newark, NJ. Through December 17, 2011.

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