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JERONIMO ELESPE

By Peter Schjeldahl

Very small oils on aluminum panels by a young Spanish painter astonish. Elespe is a find. Landscapes, interiors, portraits, and abstract nocturnes—all painted from memory—deploy layered, tiny, sensitive strokes to peculiarly monumental effect. A brooding and delicate way with grays evokes the austere, magical gravitas of Spanish classical painting—by Velázquez, even. Elespe's portraits are especially cherishable. Self possessed, erotically wise personages materialize from the wall, as if fresh from an indefinite past, to have a clear-eyed look around. You will want them to like you. *Through Oct. 11. (Connelly, 625 W. 27th St. 212-337-9563.)*