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It's Not Dry Yet

By Roberta Smith
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Detail of "Urban Grid, Riffs on the Grid" by Frederick Hayes.
Photo: Number 35, New York

Early Modernism Redux: With George Condo and Sean Landers among the precedents, some artists are revisiting European painting of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but less in the spirit of ironic slumming, à la the 1980s, and more in search of new, style-reviving vitality and saturated color, sometimes mixed with hints of late 20th-century cartooning and attention to saturated color. Nicole Eisenman's recent show of new paintings displayed a strange Nabi-type return to post-Impressionism. Here Frederick Hayes resurrects the loaded brush and charged forms of Max Beckmann, subject of a recent retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art.