



Gail Roberts, "Blanket: One Hawk," 2013, oil on marble, 12x 12", is currently on view at Scott White.

In a series of paintings incorporating use of the Fibonacci series in representational images titled "Spiral," **Gail Roberts** portrays nature's process of decomposition. Birds' nests, feathers, twigs and leaves supply the artist's commentary on our relationship between nature and culture. The central theme of the nests is a metaphor for the life cycle of birth to death. Roberts sometimes juxtaposes imagery with text about birds in flight, hunting and being hunted. There are no images of birds in these paintings, only evidence that the birds were at one time present in these environments. Some of the works are painted on canvas while others are painted on 12 inch squares of marble, slate and terrazzo—materials culled from the earth and commercially produced. Many of Roberts' compositions are painted delicately, bringing to our awareness not merely the fragility of the subject matter, but the broader temporality of life. It is the empty nests we recall long after viewing this show. They leave us unresolved - feeling that there is more to the story - a narrative that Roberts has chosen to leave unexplained (Scott White Contemporary Art, La Jolla).

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"Even If The Lights Go Out," a series of ten large scale acrylic and mixed media collage paintings by Los Angeles-based **Mara De Luca**, were inspired by the mystical poet Rainer Maria Rilke's collection of "Duino Elegies." De Luca's works strongly reference sweeping gestural landscapes—some giving subtle indications of vistas with hills and sky while others suggest cloud formations. The paintings compilation of shapes and forms amount to just enough to create luminous and sometimes transparent washes of color. The ambiance is atmospheric, with an otherworldly feeling that brings the viewer along to float in the empty spaces. A few are more or less literal in their color choices, with others focus on the fuchsia - purple - gray range, suggesting skies and landscapes one might see at sunrise or sunset, although with the intensity dialed down. While the paintings can be quite enchanting by virtue of their subtlety, they are also disquieting. There is an element of loneliness and emptiness in the calm, quiet spaces that alludes to Rilke's poetry, suggestive of beauty and despair (Quint Contemporary Art, La Jolla).

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