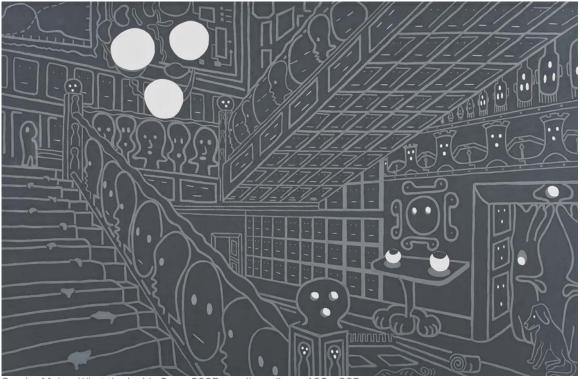
Susan Hobbs

Sandra Meigs Scenes for My Affection 25 October to 15 December 2007



Sandra Meigs: What the Inside Sees, 2007, acrylic on linen, 193 x 305 cm

Scenes for My Affection features intimately scaled paintings addressing affection as an act of viewing. This development takes place in physical space as line skims through the optic experience of pure colour. Scenes are constructed as perspectival drawings incised into flat colour. Colour as mass and line as incision work to unite the form. As each scene unfolds, the space is both ephemeral and unyielding. The works recall Matisse's "Red Studio" or Van Gogh's "Night Café" with their flattened perspective and vivid spatial assertions. Meigs's scenic tropes include a medieval pub, a pool hall, an Edwardian bar booth, and a Victorian railway station. Prescient minor characters within these scenes—a young girl, a rabbit family, a dog—call for an event, which will trigger a mental disposition. Glass balls, and lighting gels, protruding from the picture plane, form uncanny faces and become the subjects within the paintings. Though transparent, the glass acts as a container and siphon for affection. This continues Meigs's search into the idea that the physical act of viewing leads to imaginative engagement that is an ontological state.