

# KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

## New American Paintings

**Michael Berryhill's Tabletops**

**Sharon L. Butler**

**July 18, 2011**



Michael Berryhill, *Conceiving The Design*, 2011 | Oil on linen on panel, 16 x 16 inches. Courtesy Horton Gallery, New

**Michael Berryhill**, a painter who still values a good struggle in his work, has several fine, small-scale paintings in *Monkey Wrench*, a group show at Horton Gallery, through July 22. Heavily worked and overpainted (in a good way), the paintings depict tabletop objects in the studio, some of which are identifiable, and others which aren't. Although painters are going through a period in which contingency and ennui are hot, I predict that struggle and tenacity may be right around the corner.

—*Sharon L. Butler (via Two Coats of Paint)*

In a *New York Times* review of his 2009 solo show Karen Rosenberg wrote that Berryhill's paintings were uneven. "Some are worked to within an inch of their lives, while others look as if

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they were plucked half- formed from the studio.” In 2011, the inclusion of both types of work might have a different interpretation. Perhaps part of Berryhill’s process has always involved questioning the struggle to resolve his canvases.

*Monkey Wrench: Michael Berryhill, Stacy Fisher, Hilary Harnischfeger, Sally Ross, Kate Steciw, and Wallace Whitney at Horton Gallery, New York, NY. Through July 22, 2011.*

*Sharon L. Butler is a writer and critic and is the blogger behind Two Coats of Paint.*