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## Must See Painting Shows: February 2013

by Steven Zevitas

I have written a lot about the pervasiveness of abstraction over the past few years. This month, things feel a bit different, as a remarkable number of first-rate representational painting, and in particular figurative painting, exhibitions are on view at galleries throughout the country. What is most notable to me is that a growing number of emerging artists seem to be unabashedly embracing aspects of art history that pre-date the 20th century. In New York, be sure to catch Vera Iliatova's soon-to-open show at [Monya Rowe Gallery](#) and Benjamin Senior's stunning exhibition at [James Fuentes](#) (reference points for Senior include Piero della Francesca and Poussin). Both artists are well versed with art history, and both have serious technical chops. In Chicago, Ann Toebe opens a show at [Ebersmoore](#) next week in which the figure adds a new level of complexity to her already psychologically-charged interiors. In Los Angeles, be sure to catch the soon-to-close exhibition by *New American Paintings* alum Travis Collinson at [Maloney Fine Art](#), and Henry Taylor, who will open later this month at [Blum & Poe](#).



Vera Iliatova, *Dancing To The Swan Song*, 2013, oil on canvas, 42 by 32 inches, Courtesy of Monya Rowe Gallery, New York