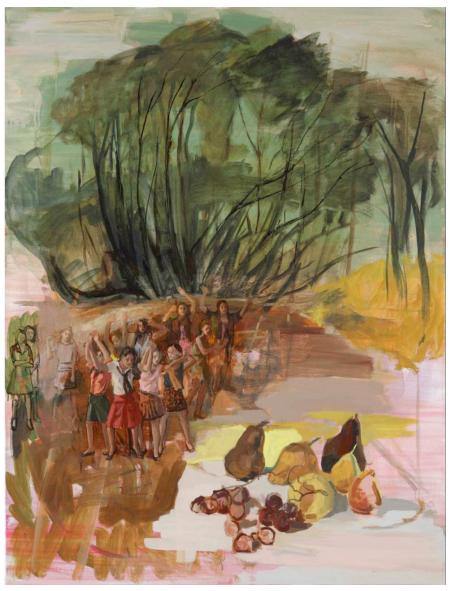
## **HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE**

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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 Toebbe 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