

*A Mind of Winter*, by Madeleine Avirov

reviewed by [Lil Copan](#) in the [May 15, 2013](#) issue



"I am not strictly a realist," says Los Angeles artist Madeleine Avirov. "Where traditional oil painting is mostly about exteriors, speaking to us by way of what it refers to rather than by the way in which it envisages, I have, since childhood, been driven by a faith in the mysterious forces that allow me to enter my subjects. To be present, in other words, to other modes of being. The goal is not only to show 'things,' but also the soul of the thing, whatever it is in the middle ground that makes us go toward this thing and not that. Some of the works read like hallucinations—real and unreal together, some elements way out of normal scale."