

ALEXANDRE

"The Manhattan Art Review"

Lois Dodd - Outside In: Recent Small Panels - [Alexandre Gallery](#) - ****

Dodd is virtuosic in the way I like, more in terms of her eye than her technique, although she can be technically refined when she feels like it with pieces like *Plant Study* or *Dried White Hydrangea Flower*. Rather, more than just her eye, her skill is in navigating the dialectic between seeing and rendering in paint what one sees. Classic Cézanne stuff, in short. Also like Cézanne, there's a pronounced difference between her still lifes and her landscapes, which is a surprisingly rare quality when you think about it. It seems clear to me that a close-up object study should require a categorically different approach from a wide expanse of space, but then I'm not a painter and I guess people don't really paint from life that much these days. Even when they ostensibly do they're usually so imitative of art history or photography that they're barely "from life" in any real sense. That's too bad, I'm of the belief that something real, like a plant in your backyard, will always be more complex than anything purely from your mind.

-Sean Tatol