

# The New York Times

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MICHAEL KIMMELMAN Art in Review

## Robert Moskowitz

Robert Moskowitz Recent Paintings Joseph Helman Gallery 20 West 57th Street Manhattan Through tomorrow Robert Moskowitz Recent Drawings Lawrence Markey 55 Vandam Street South Village Through Dec. 16

Robert Moskowitz's latest paintings suggest that he may be searching for a productive way to expand his familiar semi-abstract style of silhouetted shapes, but without having found it. He inserts gimmicks, in the way of puns and words and cartoonish flourishes, that upset the edgy, mysterious sobriety of his best art. The new pastel drawings, on the other hand, are as remarkable as any he has done: they return to a subject he has tackled before, the World Trade Center towers, now made into a set of optic variations.

The surfaces of the drawings are by turns velvety, steely, mottled and translucent. The towers are white spaces in black fields, like photographic negatives, or shimmering black forms, glowing slightly red against a black sky. The colors also include refulgent purple and blue.

These drawings can put you in mind of artists like Barnett Newman and Joel Shapiro, but their luminous, gently poetic, somehow symbolic quality is Mr. Moskowitz's own. As it happens, the view from Lawrence Markey's window includes the towers, so you can look back and forth from the drawings to the real thing. The drawings are much better. MICHAEL KIMMELMAN