

Faded Hotels, Swizzle Sticks, Gilbert & George: Hot Art

By Katya Kazakina & Lili Rosboch - Feb 6, 2013

In Enoc Perez's large-scale paintings, images of grand hotels seem to disintegrate amid accumulating paint.

In "The Good Days," his second solo show at Acquavella Galleries, the New York-based artist revisits modern architecture of his native San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Perez is known for giving landmark buildings the iconic treatment Andy Warhol reserved for celebrities. He started about a decade ago, with buildings whose history and names -- Normandie, El Miramar, La Concha -- alluded to his country's colonial past.

Back then, seductively textured images were crisp and easily identifiable. The new paintings are a lot more abstract. Densely layered oil paint obliterates the buildings' solid structure, leaving behind only ghostly silhouettes. Perez's former tropical palette has given way to pastels.

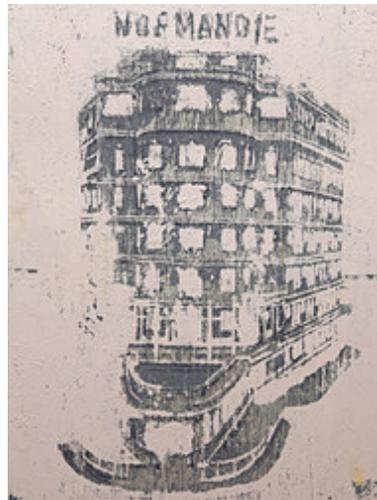
The show also introduces Perez's first sculptures, inspired by his collection of swizzle sticks, many from the hotels he paints. The tiny trivia are cast on a much larger scale -- one piece is more than 6 feet tall.

The lanky, knobby formations -- some bronze, others plaster -- also look abstract and figurative at once, alluding to Giacometti and Twombly.

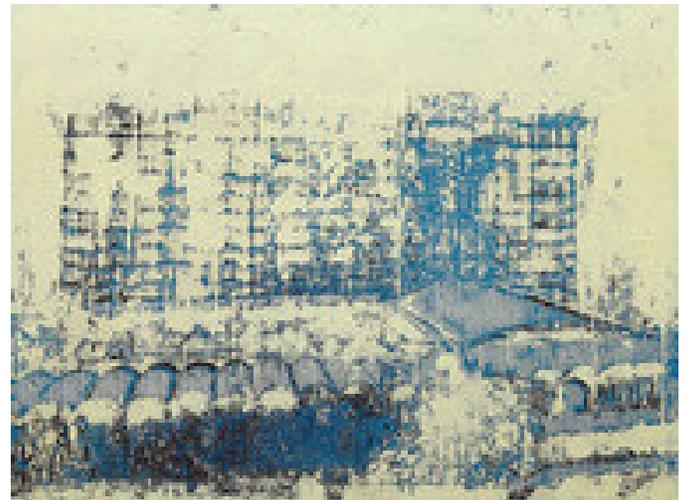
Prices range from \$180,000 to \$250,000 for paintings and \$30,000 to \$75,000 for sculptures. The show runs through Feb. 9 at 18 E. 79th St. +1-212-734-6300; <http://www.acquavellagalleries.com/>.



"Condado Beach Hotel" (Nov. 2012) by Enoc Perez. His sculptures are large and made of bronze or plaster, with one standing nearly four feet tall. Source: Enoc Perez/Acquavella Galleries via Bloomberg



"Normandie" (Dec. 2012) by Enoc Perez. The painter's second solo show at Acquavella Galleries introduces his first sculptures. Source: Enoc Perez/Acquavella Galleries via Bloomberg



"Hotel La Concha, San Juan" (Dec. 2012) by Enoc Perez. He is known for giving landmark buildings the iconic treatment Warhol reserved for celebrities. Source: Enoc Perez/Acquavella Galleries via Bloomberg