

VISUAL ARTS » REVIEW

A modern twist on the masters



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GALLERY GOING

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**QUENTIN CURRY AT FABRICE
MARCOLINI/ARTCORE**

Price on request. Until sometime in January, when Marcolini decides to take it down. 55 Mill St., Building 62; 416-920-3820

There's a group show at Artcore – as is true of lots of galleries right now –

but there is one work in it, a large painting by New York-based painter Quentin Curry, that is strange enough to have lodged itself in my sensibility, where it continues to hang on with talons of iron. I figured maybe writing something about it might release me from its grip.

The painting is called *The Other Side* and it's 198.1 centimetres by 320 cm in size. Maybe the work seems so powerful because it's full of familiar tropes – however reworked and recast they are here. There's the torn curtain or membrane which, now taken away, reveals some visionary vista.

There is an Adam and Eve couple (he rests his hand protectively at the back of her neck).

And there is – taking up most of the painting – the view that the torn away curtain has shown to them: a bleak endless landscape of what looks like bizarrely arranged or simply broken and stacked lengths of plywood or cheap lumber. Are these the remains of, or the aspiration to, some utopian city of the future?

Given the reverence the couple appears to feel (judging by their body language) for this revelation, you'd think what lay before them might well have been a bit more heartening.

Maybe the painting is suggesting that we ought to ask more of our speculations.