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THE NEW YORKER

Published December 5, 2011

JERONIMO ELESPE

By Peter Schjeldahl

Oils on aluminum panels, ranging in size from small to minuscule, fulfill the promise of the young, American-educated Spaniard. Elespe paints crepuscular domestic, studio, and gallery spaces, as well as the odd spectral figure. His technique is a patient buildup of tiny strokes in dark or milky hues. The dappled surfaces are jewel-like but not at all precious. The quieter the pictures, the more they radiate a clenched, unsettling emotional power. Turning your back to them can feel foolhardy. *Through Dec. 4. (Eleven Rivington, 11 Rivington St. 212-982-1930.)*