


art

PAINTING INSTALLATION

Going In Deep

Nacha probes underground themes **By DAVID JAGER**

 **SUZANNE NACHA** at Harbourfront Centre (235 Queens Quay West), to December 31. 416-973-4000. Rating: **NNNN**

SUZANNE NACHA HAS A TALENT FOR blurring boundaries. In this painting installation in York Quay Centre's project room, she's filled a small space with enigmatic oversized images.

In *Deep* focuses on subterranean themes: tunnels and underground waterways. Shaped to mimic their architectural subjects (two paintings

of waterways are arches leaning against the wall, while two others are perfectly round, like drains), their presence and purpose are pointedly ambiguous.

We could be stumbling onto a room of discarded scenery or signage from a stage production. No surprise that Nacha's painterly inspiration came from working alongside her father in his sign painting business. A jumble of signs leaning in a far corner of the room heightens the uncertainty.



Suzanne Nacha's *In Deep* blurs the boundary between signs and paintings.

This collection of oddly shaped paintings of underground waterways is unnerving because they refuse to be pinned down. They could be landscape paintings, signs, props or advertisements. Their potential for interpretation is wide open. Like mannequins' refusal to be fully human or fully sculptural, Nacha's images similarly radiate the uncanny.

Her fascination with hidden or obscure meaning is expressed in the

subjects of her paintings. Underground waterways are a classic symbol of the unconscious, the dark, unknowable currents flowing beneath the familiar spaces of our everyday interactions.

Through her use of artfully flattened sign-like surfaces, Nacha hauntingly evokes the complex dual nature of the painted image and the painted sign. ©

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