

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

Friday, December 2, 2005

## ***Sarah McCoubrey: Painted snaps***

**By Edith Newhall  
For The Inquirer**

At first, the opalescent light that suffuses Sarah McCoubrey's fastidiously painted scenes of rural New York brings to mind masters of the American sublime such as Martin Johnson Heade. But if you forget, for a moment, that McCoubrey is a painter, her images of such mundane subjects as a solitary Weber grill or a plastic pool, and her portrayals of landscapes intersected by worn billboards and high-tension power lines, have something in common with the snapshot aesthetic of Stephen Shore's photographs.



*View from Emerald City, 2005, oil on panel, 24 x 22 1/2 inches*

Mistaking her two oil paintings of a giraffe statue in a miniature-golf course for unfamiliar back views of the Philadelphia Zoo made me want to see what McCoubrey, a Philadelphia native who teaches at Syracuse University, would make of some of this city's rough, but also achingly beautiful, edges.

Locks Gallery, 600 Washington Square South. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Through Dec. 17. 215-629-1000 or [www.locksgallery.com](http://www.locksgallery.com) .

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