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*JULIE VOYCE, Drawings Done in the Last Year & 4/5, Garnet Press, 580 Richmond West, 366-5012. Until February 21.* 3

Drawings Done in the Last Year & 4/5, Julie Voyce's current exhibit at Garnet Press, consists of a large group of small abstract and still life drawings done in the archaic medium of silverpoint. A preferred renaissance technique for rendering finished figure studies, the refined and delicate effect of silverpoint on specially prepared paper lost favour with the advent of less demanding and more erasable methods of laying down precise marks.

Voyce has never been one to follow trends or conventions — her last solo show was made up of decorative yet controlled abstract paintings done in latex housepaint. Using white latex housepaint as the prepared ground for her current drawings, Voyce builds up images with many layers of silverpoint overpainted with thin layers of the latex ground, through which pentimenti, or ghostly traces, emerge.

"I find that I'm happiest and do my best work when I push myself," says Voyce, a comment which sheds light on the deceptive simplicity and wit which characterize her sophisticated images.

Why did Voyce choose silverpoint? "Because I wanted to see what I could do with it. I get interested in a medium and, as I start to work with it, the medium gets my mind going."

Voyce's latest exploration has led to a rare balance of fragility with aggressively stark, controlled compositions. She pushes the viewer as much as she pushes herself, and the result is infectious.

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