



**Yigal Ozeri**  
**Mike Weiss**

Yigal Ozeri, the Israeli-born, New York based artist. Makes pictures that might be considered retrograde, with a lineage that runs from Botticelli through the 19<sup>th</sup>-century French academics, the English Pre-Raphaelites, Andrew Wyeth, and the photorealists. Nonetheless, while his work is hardly edgy and doesn't have the bite of, say, John Currin's, Ozeri has created a special niche for himself within current modes of realism.

This show's 17 oil-on-paper works, with their deft brushstrokes, revealed Ozeri's considerable talent as a painter and representational artist, while the four fluid watercolors on view had a spontaneity and transparency of process and material that characterize some of his earlier, more expressive paintings.

It's the mimetic aspects of Ozeri's work that retain a grip on the imagination; it's his fine rendering of leaves, branches, flesh, long tangled hair, and fabrics, like wool and silk, that you can almost touch and smell, as well as his vivid palette of reds, golds, pinks, creams, violets, and woodsy hues. The images have the added piquancy of media trompe l'oeil – are they photographs or are they paintings?

Another source of their appeal is their recurring subjects: three milky-skinned, Titian-haired, rosy-lipped, latter-day free-spirited flower girls – two of them equally at home unclothed and clothed – gamboling in pastoral settings (see the animated sequences on DVD he made from still photographs). Ozeri, with the help of his latest muses, who are poised between innocence and feminine self-knowledge, attempts, for a moment, to conjure Arcadia, to gather rosebuds while he may.

- Lilly Wei



**Yigal Ozeri, *Untitled; Jana in the field*, 2009,  
oil on paper, 60" x 42". Mike Weiss.**