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**artpicks**

## Summer Invitational



by [Lori Hill](#)

Like the organizers of a chichi golf tournament, Gross McCleaf Gallery has asked six artists to participate in its Summer Invitational. This year's dignitaries could tee off with the best. Michael Ananian seeks to tell a story of workplace politics, laziness and even bacchanalia with his ongoing series of casein and charcoal works. Brian Kreydatus' figures and still lifes look like they were created quickly and with much energy, yet they have a quiet studiousness and attention to detail. Erica Baclawski's clean, close-cropped paintings (pictured) place the viewer next to retro windows looking out onto snow-topped mountains that are almost alarmingly near -- it seems dangerous. Are we on a train? A plane? Her sharp, glossy colors and bright reflections are refreshingly original. Charles Ritchie creates softly lit portraits of everyday streetscapes. Some look like double-exposed photos and others like x-rays of suburban life, with eerie streetlamps and transparent trees. The milky white fields in Mark Brosseau's works are pleasantly interrupted with splotches of watery colors that are sometimes amoebic in shape and sometimes softly geometric. His time in Iceland as a Fulbright Scholar just might come into play with these bright, happy works. Finally, Karen Fogerty has a knack for making perfectly normal buildings look ghostly. Her ethereal charcoal and graphite drawings of rambling old houses with many eaves and back staircases are full of shadows -- and most likely, great stories.

***Summer Invitational***, exhibit runs through Aug. 13; reception, Wed., July 23, 5-7 p.m.; free, Gross McCleaf Gallery, 127 S. 16th St., 215-665-8138.