

LENNON, WEINBERG, INC.

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Joseph Zito

Stevenson, Jonathan. "On July 4th: The art of decency (Excerpt)," *Two Coats of Paint*, July 4, 2018.

<http://www.twocoatsofpaint.com/2018/07/july-4-the-art-of-decency.html>

TWO COATS OF PAINT



Joseph Zito, *Dire Distress*, 2018

[...] Joseph Zito explores kindred ideas in his typically probing and inventive exhibition "Plus Ten," at Lennon Weinberg. A fledgling beekeeper, Zito, according to the press release, sees the endeavor as "a perfectly calibrated, though fragile, example of environmental and social infrastructure and a satisfying metaphor to generate a body of work."

In that spirit, he built ten clear pine hives and bestowed one each on ten fellow artists to embellish however they wanted, with an eye to presenting them as the products of both the individual and the community. The artists' interpretations include a cheerful evocation of the bees' activity (Carolanna Parlato), broadly celebratory takes on the natural collective

(Gary Mayer, Glenn Goldberg), and more remote associations with beauty (Katherine Bowling, Edward Burke).

But the dominant impulse seemed to be to register order (Eric Brown, Marthe Keller, Damon Brandt) or outright control (Jim Lee, Jill Moser). Bolstered by pensive yet upbeat watercolors and large canvases, Zito, in his own *Dire Distress*, gains an elegant, crowning clarity for this nuanced show in painting on a hive – a symbol of community – a small but pristine fragment of the Stars and Stripes. Acknowledging our severe national decency deficit, he holds out some hope for shrinking it. That's a wise sentiment for what really ought to be a subdued Fourth of July.

"Joseph Zito: Plus Ten," Lennon, Weinberg, Inc., Chelsea, New York, NY. Through August 17, 2018.