

ARTFORUM



flight data recorder
2007, watercolor and pencil on paper

Joe Sola

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10.26.07-11.24.07 Andrew Rafacz Gallery

The title of Joe Sola's solo exhibition just about says it all, which is to say that it says just about nothing. "The Buck Stops Here" gathers recent watercolors by the artist, who unabashedly and somewhat pathetically revisits many clichés and fashions some new ones along the way. These are bad paintings—in a very good way—and they celebrate their own lameness with a fatalistic, self-deprecating hand. *Industrial Buttons*, 2007, depicts a metal box with three knobs, labeled START, STOP, and GIVE UP. Likewise, *Three Large Ribbons*, 2007, depicts the prizes given for FIRST PLACE, SECOND PLACE, and I'M GOING TO KILL YOU PLACE. Contemporary subject matter abounds—a flight recorder, a Dell laptop, pizza delivery, Taser guns—as does the heart-warming sentiment that we're all going to die anyway. Sola knocks this most final of clichés out of the park in the video *Watercolor*, 2006. Made in collaboration with Will Eno, the work not only sends up Sola's chosen medium by mocking PBS's didactic tone but also features the artist being run over by a delivery van just as he begins achieving the Sunday painter's dream of transferring a beautiful landscape to paper. When the buck stops here, it hurts.