

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

ART REVIEWS/D. DOMINICK LOMBARDI

# Diary of Life Layered in Paint and Plaster

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**Thomas Huber:  
Paintings and Prints**

*Van Brunt Gallery, 460 Main Street, Beacon.  
Through July 17. (845) 838-2995.*

Thomas Huber makes what can best be described as modified fresco paintings. His technique, which features multiple layers of plaster, collage and paint, is both additive and reductive. He works with, and around small observations, the minutiae of life. Sometimes these fragments are drawn or painted; other times they are magazine photographs, drawings from other artists or notes written by him or by friends. In using these bits and pieces of life, he creates a type of diary.

He uses free association as a general guide, yet he never loses his place. In "Balance System" pine cones and appear against a backdrop of blues and more blues that somehow appear warm, like a summer sky during a camping trip. A pie, seed pods and peeling paper inhabit "Reservation," a painting that evoked, for me, the sense of remembering awkward moments. With "Escape to the North," which makes use of a shopping list, twisting vinelike forms on a mottled surface of paint and plaster; the forms that flow and fill the space, brought to mind a more abstract concept like regeneration or reincarnation.

Whatever the viewer sees or feels, one thing is clear: Mr. Huber understands the import of visual communication.

