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KILLER TEXT ON ART

RAPID FIRE REVIEWS

Kim McCarty
By Scarlet Cheng
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Kim McCarty at Kim Light/Lightbox Kim McCarty continues to astonish us with her brilliant handling of the watercolor medium in this show of portraits and botanicals. There are her signature paintings of nude adolescents. The watery medium itself conveys the fragility of the moment, as they leave the cusp of childhood.

I'm especially taken by the botanicals in this show. A large, nearly monumental watercolor of an iris greets you on the right as you enter the gallery. The petals are in washes of purplish-blue with highlights in red. The main flower is in full and decadent bloom, and is perched on the end of a slightly tilted stem, while a bud further down is branching off that main stem. Five smaller botanicals are hung vertically nearby, one on top of another. Four are leaves in blazing autumnal colors — they look as though they're burning through the paper -- and the fifth is another iris. While McCarty is quite meticulous about the silhouette of these plants, she doesn't paint in all the veins and textures but lets the happy spontaneity of the watercolor medium do its magic.