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ART IN REVIEW E37

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**Andrew Lenaghan**

George Adams Gallery  
41 West 57th Street  
Manhattan  
Through Feb. 5

Small, deadpan, razor-sharp views of weedy fields, deserted streets and backyard lots in Brooklyn and New Jersey, these paintings by 34-year-old Andrew Lenaghan uphold the old plein-air tradition. Mr. Lenaghan works directly on panels out of doors, painting thinly and exactly but not tightly and with a controlled sense for descending, indirect light. In a few cases he paints the same view from his window at different times, so the image changes.

The paintings' laconic precision, in its transparency, has its roots in Dutch art but also aspires to Thomas Eakins or Walker Evans. These are American scenes, in other words, and in their plain-spoken realism, blessedly unfashionable records of a certain dilapidated urban beauty.

MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

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