

Michael Brennan  
Open Letter to SNO

Greetings from Brooklyn, New York!

Please let me draw your attention to two recent articles that have generated much discussion among artists I know:

The first is film critic David Denby's essay on being "platform agnostic", titled Big Pictures: Hollywood Looks for a Future

[http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2007/01/08/070108crat\\_atlarge\\_denby](http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2007/01/08/070108crat_atlarge_denby)

The second is novelist Jonathan Lethem's The Ecstasy of Influence: A Plagiarism

<http://www.harpers.org/archive/2007/02/0081387>

Both of these strike me as immediate and generationally relevant.

One observation: Abstraction is supposedly moving from untouchable to trendy status. And, even though that probably means nothing more than some superficial stylistic rotation, I do remain hopeful that abstraction will once again become something more than an insiders' interest.

One reservation: for some time now, too many young artists have been using the Phaidon book Vitamin P: New Perspectives in Painting (ISBN 0714844462) as a manual on how to make an undistinguished contemporary painting.

Recommended instead: Selections from the Journals of Myron Stout (ISBN 1877675520). A deeply thoughtful and unconventional inquiry into the nature of abstraction. A lifetime of insights in one handy volume.

Thanks for the invitation to exchange!