

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER: APRIL 22, 1994
By Edward J. Sozanski – Art Critic

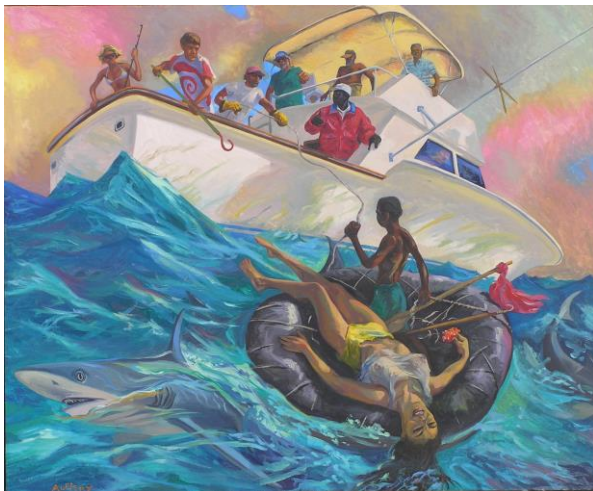
Dennis Aulfiery's exhibition at Venue displays the two aspects of his current work in a way that makes him seem like two artists. In this group of paintings, Aulfiery explores erotically charged situations set in tropical locales. These paintings also derive from photographs, but the snapshot aesthetic isn't so obvious because the raw images are transformed more completely.

The series begins with pictures of raunchy rowdyism painted in lurid, expressionist colors. As the paintings move forward in time, they become less comic and more sexually tense. The climax of this progression is a fishing-boat scene called 'Gulf Stream Magic' that places the viewer right in the center of the action.



THE PALACE GUARD, 1993

Aulfiery's surreal imagination injects the figure of the late Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo into a resort scene and puts Ernest Hemingway and Gabriel Garcia Marquez on another fishing boat. Hemingway and Marquez are two characters in a bizarre rescue scene that recalls John Singleton Copley's famous painting *Watson and the Shark* - except that in this case "Watson" is a statuesque blonde in a rubber raft.



Rescue 36 x 44 inches