

### FOCUS ON BROOKLYN

#### Susan Wanklyn

A. M. Richard Fine Art

In a comfortable little gallery in the shadow of the Williamsburg Bridge, Susan Wanklyn's alert and gentle abstract paintings made for an animated



Susan Wanklyn, (from left) *Tiger Leaf*, 2007, casein on board, 26" x 24"; *Night*, 2007, casein on board, 36" x 29½"; *These Three*, 2007, casein on board, 34" x 27½"; *Orb*, 2006, casein on board, 24" x 28". A. M. Richard Fine Art.

and charming show, modestly titled "Paintings in a Room."

Wanklyn makes her own casein paint with milk and produces colors that are so clean and fresh you can almost taste them. The yellow-orange-red palette brings to mind something right off the vine; the young lime greens and vaporous blues are luminous and unpolluted.

But hints of darkness temper all this springlike cheerfulness. Submerged beneath Wanklyn's whitened backgrounds is the faint record of previous struggles with uncooperative compositions. Sometimes this darkness appears in the foreground. In one painting, *Sail* (2007), areas of filmy soot and storm circulate around calmer, cleaner regions of space; in *These Three* (2007), bright-toned squares perch unstably in a pocket of white, all on a gray ground.

Wanklyn always applies the paint thinly, and reveals every hair of the brush and wipe of the rag in a trail of grooved striations. Her motions are free, unhurried, and unapologetic.

All the how-it's-made business aside,