



ART & ANTIQUES  
The New Faith in Painting  
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## IN THE GALLERIES MODERN SPECTACLE Metaphors and Memories

Art based on motifs from nature often overestimates the power of a natural form to lend nature's power to something so artificial as a work of art.



Chisos 1989

Matt Magee uses motifs from nature, but he imbues these motifs with a sense of nostalgia and personal history that adds up to a sweet lucidity.

When he was a boy **Magee** traveled with his father all over the world. 'Ushash', a sculpture which consists of strips of tire rubber sewn into a long centipedal braid, and 'Chisos', a painting, both

share a memory Magee had of lifting long strands of African seaweed from the ocean. Magee ritualized the memory by means of weaving, in 'Ushash', and reflects upon it all in his painting. The paintings are limpid in surface,

lucid in image. Magee's work – much more grave now than his earlier formulations, which were almost funky – succeeds in creating art about nature that drops the pretense of being natural.

(Berland-Hall Gallery, New York)  
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