



Laura Mosquera "Can You Risk It" 2006

**GALLERY EXHIBITIONS**

"**Laura Mosquera**: in the deep end"

**moniquemeloche Gallery**

Through Oct. 14

This five-year-old gallery, one of the first to bring serious credentials to Chicago's relatively new West Loop gallery district, has a reputation for showing emerging local and international artists on the brink of making it big. Its latest exhibition—the second solo show of works by Guatemalan/Chicagoan Laura Mosquera—reaffirms the gallery's prescient eye.

Composed of one painting and several drawings done with colored pencil and graphite, this intimate show explores everyday moments captured in cinematic fashion. Mosquera uses snapshots in constructing her work, and what results is akin to a movie still—but with an added emotional layer brought on by the artist's perception that there is a "melancholic awareness that the present is always what is in the process of coming apart, of ceasing to exist."

At first glance, Mosquera's work, which is held in such public collections as the **Art Institute of Chicago**, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** and the **Centro de Arte de Salamanca** in Spain, is vaguely reminiscent of **Alex Katz** in the way her people fill the canvas.

But instead of being merely an observer, the viewer is pulled into the room with her subjects in their most intimate moments. Whether it is a kiss in *Can You Risk It*, a solitary, pensive mood in *A Shift in Thinking* or the moment of truth in a relationship in *I Want Something More*, all the works succeed in vividly evoking both loss and longing.

**moniquemeloche**

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