



JAKUB JULIAN ZIOLKOWSKI, *UNTITLED*, 2006 • OIL ON CANVAS, 23 X 15 X 2 IN • © AND COURTESY HAUSER & WIRTH, ZURICH/LONDON

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Picture Teletubbyland populated by Paul McCarthy misfits and painted by Philip Guston in his later years, and you'll be close to imagining a canvas by Jakub Julian Ziolkowski. As this London debut comprising dozens of paintings and works on paper demonstrated, the young Polish artist refuses to adopt a signature style or entertain a recurring motif. Although there were several nudes on display, their fleshy curves giving way to tangles of Brice Marden-esque squiggles, they were balanced by landscapes and madcap visions of the artist's studio. Ziolkowski refers to painting as "a crazy machine that propels itself, and the faster it goes, the less predictable the decisions." To this end, he's stronger on paper, where we see unpredictable decisions yielding idiosyncratic results, than on large canvases, on which he fails to give his weighty influences the slip.

—MARTIN COOMER