

## ART WORLD

## David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows This Fall

David Ebony, Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Kyle Staver, *Releasing the Catfish*, 2011.

Photo courtesy the artist and Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects.

**Kyle Staver at Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, through Oct. 11.**

Occupying both venues of this Lower East Side gallery, "Tall Tales," is a rewarding overview of recent paintings by New York artist [Kyle Staver](#). The starting point for her figurative paintings is mythology, although she takes rather extreme departures from the way the stories are told by Ovid, for instance. *Pandora* shows a highly stylized nude figure desperately trying to escape the grip of huge phallic serpents that she has apparently released into the world.

With subtle lighting effects and a quirky play of spatial depth, Staver has an inimitable painting style. She follows, however, a long tradition of modernist figurative painting centered on [Milton Avery](#), Marsden Hartley, David Park, and most reverently, Matisse. But to that tradition she adds considerable energy and luster. In some of the most outstanding works, she strays from the mythological subjects and evokes the rural life of Minnesota, where she was raised, as in *Releasing the Catfish*. Here, a bikini-clad young woman in a small rowboat returns a large fish to a lake or river while giant white water fowl fly overhead.

steven harvey fine art projects

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