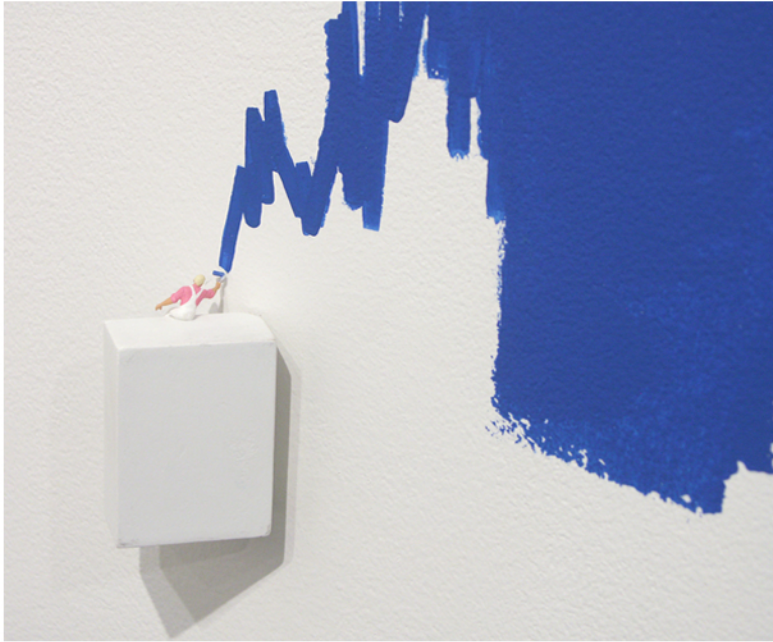


Small Wonders



Painter With Pink Shirt” by Liliana Porter at the Barbara Krakow Gallery.

By Cate McQuaid
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

At: Barbara Krakow Gallery,
10 Newbury St.,
through July 3rd.
617-262-4490,
barbarakrakowgallery.com

Liliana Porter: New Works
January 23 - March 13, 2010

Liliana Porter has four tiny assemblages up at Barbara Krakow Gallery, along with the video “Matinee/Matiné,” which she recently exhibited at the Mills Gallery at the Boston Center for the Arts. I wrote about the charming video at the time; the assemblages, which she makes with tiny figurines set in existential narratives against the gallery walls, are deliciously sly, full of pathos, wit, and questions about the nature of art.

“Painter With Pink Shirt” features a man half the size of a

paper clip in white bib overalls, seated on a little white pedestal that sticks out at angle from the wall. His brush, almost too small to see, is soaked in blue, and we see the tiny jagged mark he’s made on the wall expand behind him to strokes the size of a house painter’s brush. Another little guy, in “Black String II,” hoists a string several times his size over his shoulder. Working so small, Porter brings us in close, and we identify with the tasks of these workers, which look never-ending.

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