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## A Grab Bag of Goodies from the Edge of the World: The Fine Arts Work Center Fellows at PAAM



(Left) Micha Patiniott, *Rapture I (after the relief *The Human Passions* by Jef Lambeaux, 1898)*, 2023. Oil on canvas. 105 x 65 cm. (Center) Micha Patiniott, *Vellum III*, 2023. Oil on canvas. 45 x 38 cm. (Right) Micha Patiniott, *Vellum VIII*, 2023. Oil on canvas. 45 x 40 cm.

Returning fellow Micha Patiniott offers cerebral yet sensuous oil paintings from his *Vellum* series, all painted in the fall of 2023. Each depicts a blank piece of paper, but each is quite different, a little drama of light and shadow. One sheet seems to have been folded into quarters and unfolded flat again, another dogeared in the upper corners; Patiniott lavishes attention on every crease, seeking something transcendent in mundane materials. Also on view is one painting from his *Celestial Bodies* series, titled *Rapture I (after the relief *The Human Passions* by Jef Lambeaux, 1898)*, likewise from 2023. The writhing nudes in the work he's referencing caused a scandal when the relief debuted more than a century ago. Patiniott's take is far gentler than the original. Painted in a palette of cool blues and grays, these forms are entwined but not contorted. They suggest bodies, but nothing is set in stone—that meaty thigh might well be a nebula. And the softness of the style seems to reject the rigid worldview implicit in the source material, which posits death as a punishment for human passions.