



GARY MICHAEL DAULT GALLERY GOING

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TOM KOKEN AT MKG127

\$600-\$2,800. Until May 23,
127 Ossington Ave., Toronto;
647-435-7682

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New York-based painter Tom Koken's exhibition, *Phantom Limb*, offers two suites of paintings – his *Dissolution* paintings and his tiny *Branches* works (in oil on paper) in which the partial image is made so cunningly and so forcefully present that you don't notice the absence of the whole.

The *Dissolution* paintings show what appear to be bits of decorative gridwork – the remnants of what looks like wrought-iron fencing – that have somehow or other survived some erasing process and now remain as evidence of larger patterns, to be completed or rebuilt only in the imagination.

The suite of *Branches* pictures – each only eight by 9½ inches – offer another kind of partialness. Here, in each of these rather endearing little oils on paper, a system of tree branches, (none of which is arboreally exact but delivers, rather, the idea of branching in itself), spreads across the paper in what the gallery charmingly characterizes as a space where “mark-making and picture-making intersect.” The “branches” appear to have begun as exploratory marks, but have grown – as a tree might – into lattice-like patterns, the very embodiment, in a sort of rudimentary, diagrammatic form, of nature's abhorrence of emptiness.