

ARTFORUM



Miyoko Ito, *Mandarin, or the Red Empress*, 1977, oil on canvas, 46 x 41".

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Miyoko Ito (Artists Space, New York) How erroneous that the opportunity to see "Heart of Hearts," a selection of work by Miyoko Ito (1918–1983) occurred so long after she was alive and working—but it's better late than never, thanks to curator Jordan Stein. Her paintings evoke objects, times, and places that are familiar but also not—windows framing a vista might be mirrors reflecting the artist's inhabited space; forms oscillate from landscape to figure and back again. Tacks protruded from the sides of several frames, as though the paintings were bursting at the seams. Maybe they're about to come undone, or maybe they were never fixed—like a memory, a mind, or a body, they are powerfully vulnerable in their honesty. For anyone presently interested in abstraction, and in dismantling the white patriarchal narrative of American art history, this exhibition was most crucial.