



Laura Ross-Paul's new exhibit at Froelick Gallery receives a WW pick from Willamette Week's Richard Speer:



Seasons is veteran painter Laura Ross-Paul's freest, most vibrant show in years. A gifted figurative artist, she has always been at her strongest when deploying her neo-impressionist technique in the service of mysterious, archetypal portraits. You can feel the snow flurries encircling the subject of *A Light Dusting*, the flakes glittery and layered in Ross-Paul's trademark encaustic atmospheric. *Celebration* crackles with an opulent backdrop of northern lights, while *Early Spring* shows a shirtless boy wielding a scythe-shaped tree branch, confronting the viewer implacably, like some arcane pagan demi-god. Recalling Ross-Paul's previous series exploring Jungian psychology, the piece balances its symbolism with a shimmering floral backdrop so unspeakably virtuosic, it might just make you weep. No joke.

714 NW Davis St., 222-1142. Closes March 27

To create the paintings included in the Seasons exhibit, Laura developed new techniques of working with oil and wax. Martha Bergman-Gamblin, co-founder of Gamblin Artist Colors, worked closely with Laura to advise on how to best span the distance between her vision and what the materials would allow her to do.