

Stepping into the well-worn shoes of those who walked before us

GARY MICHAEL DAULT

6-8 minutes

[...]

HEATHER GRAHAM

AT EDWARD DAY GALLERY

\$6,000 to \$7,000. Until March 29; 952 Queen St. W.,
416-921-6540.

Painter Heather Graham's exhibition, *lost and found and lost*, is made up of eight large oil portraits on canvas, each of which offers a close-up human face, white-on-white, nebulous and insubstantial as a cloud, as close to you as your own breath, but also curiously remote and unknowable.

The silvery portraits, which the gallery describes as "caressed onto the canvas," are not delicately rendered but, given that they are painted with large house-paint brushes, seem rather vigorously made, despite their moonlit subtleties. Graham's ghostly portraits are like visual quicksilver: Look at them from across the gallery and you will see a reasonably well-defined face. Move closer and the face starts to dissolve. Move closer still, and you lose it almost entirely. It's sort of like getting to know someone so well, you can't see the person any more. Too much intimacy leads to abstraction.

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