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ART IN REVIEW

ART IN REVIEW; Katherine Bowling -- 'Divide'



By [Grace Glueck](#)

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Greenberg Van Doren Gallery 730 Fifth Avenue, at 57th Street
Through Oct. 30

The lure of the familiar in landscapes surrounding her home in upstate New York animates Katherine Bowling's softly brushed works. Her responses to the roads, trees and fields that she experiences daily, and the light that falls on them at various times of day or night, are feelingly conveyed, with a spirit derived from the great landscape painters of the past but thoroughly contemporary compositional devices, not ignoring those invented by the camera.

She concentrates on roads, smooth, modern macadam rivers running past timeless fields. Often they flow into the future, as in "Curve," a scene at dusk where a single streetlight glows next to a bend that plunges through dark trees on to some enchanted destination. In a less emotive work, "Lines," all compositional play, the road becomes a crisp geometric patch of space beside a trim green field and a couple of densely branched trees through which a telephone wire angles sharply above.

"Snow" muffles the road with a fresh, thick blanket, bearing a faint trace of car tracks, as dark tree skeletons by the roadside stand sentinel and flakes drift from a rough blue sky faintly tempered with yellow. The most minimal painting, but one still charged with feeling, is "Vacation," two yellow ruts in a plain of grass that stops at the edge of a vast domain of sky. To plain vanilla countryside, Ms. Bowling brings a touch of soul. GRACE GLUECK

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