

# Weekend Arts

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## GALLERIES

### Mamie Tinkler

Through May 13. Ulterior, 424 Broadway, No. 601, Manhattan. 917-472-7784; [ulteriorgallery.com](http://ulteriorgallery.com).

I've never seen watercolors quite like Mamie Tinkler's. The still lifes of "A Troubling," her second solo show at Ulterior Gallery, depict densely patterned textiles, unusually tinted feathers, mirrors, skulls, curious rocks, glass globes and crackling flames. All these things shade imperceptibly into patches of saturated color that sometimes read as continuations of the pictures — as red velvet backdrops, say, or deep black shadows — and sometimes as a loosening into abstraction. The contrast between exactly rendered detail and the paint's naturally soft edges is subtle, but it registers as an undertone of tension, even anguish. It's as if Tinkler is using her medium against itself.

This tension struck me as very apropos to a moment when many old certainties are melting away. Things that used to look solid, like science, journalism, the Arctic ice shelf or liberal democracy, are starting to seem more like passing apparitions. But it also says something about perception and knowing. In the show's title piece, a golden finch alights on a twig atop a blue celestial globe. Above it



MAMIE TINKLER, VIA ULTERIOR GALLERY

and beside it, as reflections or possibly familiars, two more finches rest on two more globes, their highlights indicated by larger or smaller circles of unpainted white paper. The "real" twig, in front, is loose and fuzzy, like a vision or a dream; the shadow it casts is as crisp as a razor blade.

WILL HEINRICH