

# REGEN PROJECTS

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## Toba Khedoori

**Regen Projects**  
**Los Angeles**

Toba Khedoori's paintings on wax-coated paper, each one taking up most of a good-size gallery wall, convey immediacy with their technique even as the choice of imagery remains resolutely remote. This tension is what gives her work an unusual staying power. Although carefully chosen to play with the illusion of three-dimensionality, Khedoori's subjects seem to lose any other



Toba Khedoori, *Untitled (Clouds)*, 2005, wax and oil paint on paper, 129½" x 80". Regen Projects.

significance when one comes close enough to see the brushstrokes and the bits of hair and lint that inevitably affix to the thick layer of wax.

This installation included architectural elements familiar in the artist's previous work, such as two walls of windows—one, white apertures on a black surface, the other, black on white—and a pole that made convinc-

ing use of a trompe l'oeil shadow. Despite Khedoori's cool-headed approach, an undercurrent of romance runs through her work, as in the dominant painting in the installation, which showed a fire in a fireplace surrounded by black paint: the red and yellow flames were the only color in any picture in the show.

This sparse presentation and incisive selection of subject matter is reminiscent of Vija Celmins, another perfectionist at rendering surfaces in graphite or paint.

—Hunter Drohojowska-Philp