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TORONTO
TERENCE DICK
MONICA TAP AT MKG127
May 20, 2014



Monica Tap, *Paseo I*, 2014, oil on canvas

Despite being a painter in the most unambiguous sense of the vocation, **Monica Tap** is not completely unconnected to photography. Her recent work has been based on stills grabbed from video footage shot from moving vehicles. She captures the full spectrum of nature in the rush of a glimpse from the highway. This current exhibition at **MKG127** centres on a suite of monochrome paintings that aren't in motion and look like they've had the colour drained out of them through an option on Photoshop. In the absence of her characteristic palette of greens and other less likely colours (a couple examples of which are in the front room), the noise (which is definitely not a bad thing) of her work is foregrounded and it takes a lot of maneuvering to see what she's painted. Even straight on and from a distance, it's hard to make out the layers of shadow in her overgrown grove. I found I saw things at an angle that I didn't see directly, and then all objectivity disappeared in the skillfully dense calligraphic abstractions when I got close up. At first I thought it was a memorial to trees killed in the ice storm, but it happens to be based on photographs taken from a walking path in Spain. In contrast to the artists at the MOCCA, there is nothing here but an invitation to relinquish the self and not find oneself in the mirror but lose the ego in something far greater – the universe. This art isn't theatre; it's metaphysics.

MKG127: <http://www.mkg127.com/>

Terence Dick is a freelance writer living in Toronto. His art criticism has appeared in *Canadian Art*, *BorderCrossings*, *Prefix Photo*, *Camera Austria*, *Fuse*, *Mix*, *C Magazine*, *Azure*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He is the editor of Akimblog. You can follow his quickie reviews and art news announcements on Twitter [@TerenceDick](https://twitter.com/TerenceDick).