

## LOS ANGELES TIMES

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## AROUND THE GALLERIES

By Holly Myers, Special to The Times

**Menace lurks amid the colorful chaos**

"Gyre Carling," **Iva Gueorguieva's** second solo show at Carl Berg Gallery, takes its name from a rather nasty figure in Scottish folklore: an ogress who pilfered women's unspun flax on the last night of every year and "levit upoun Christiane menis flesche," according to one middle-Scottish poem.

The figures in Gueorguieva's paintings appear only fleetingly amid chaotic swirls of color and line, so it's difficult to say whether the lady makes a personal appearance. But the reference underscores the folkloric sense of menace that imbues the work, epitomized by the title of one piece: "These Are Places Where Nothing Is Wrong but There Is Something Wrong."

The paintings are large, unabashedly colorful and dizzyingly frenetic. The term "gyre" also refers to a circular motion or vortex, as in an ocean current — and all of the works seem to contain several such currents, all of them sweeping up clouds of debris as they go. There are dim figures, obscure suggestions of objects, traces of architecture — all poised, it seems, on the verge of disintegration.

I suspect that Gueorguieva's complex sense of compositional space would benefit from a little less pictorial clutter. But the pleasures of that clutter — particularly the pleasure of Gueorguieva's sprightly, agile line — are such that one is reluctant to urge her in that direction too quickly.

**Carl Berg Gallery**, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, (323) 931-6060, through April 14. Closed Sunday and Monday. [www.carlberggallery.com](http://www.carlberggallery.com)