

**Opening Reception** 

Miphyrota 24



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### THEATER/FINE ARTS

Friday, August 12, 2005

## Soil's marvelous 'Girls Growing' paints aging in an unusual light

By REGINA HACKETT SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER ART CRITIC

In an oil painting titled "Lucy and Linda Hellbent on McGregor Street," Ginny Ivanicki explores the density of blocked desire. The girls she paints are too large for their bike and toy tractor and seem to be pushing their vehicles into the ground in an effort to move forward.

Wherever they're going, they can't get there from here. In this small-town scene, the hot light flattens the color and bleaches the background of bleak street and buildings. The day cooks, the energy evaporates, and yet there's a stubborn determination to go on. These are girls who can't imagine anybody picking them as subjects of high romance, but they are nonetheless full of fierce

ART REVIEW GIRLS GROWING

WHERE: Soil Gallery, 112 Third Ave. S.

WHEN: Through Aug. 31. Hours: Thursdays-Sundays, noon-5 p.m.

feeling and grimy heat. Vancouver, B.C.'s Ivanicki is part of a remarkable exhibit titled "Girls

Growing" at Soil, organized by freelance Seattle curator Jess Van Nostrand and featuring eight artists who cast an unconventional light on the subject of growing up and growing old.

Again, Ivanicki: Her oil painting, "Rita P. When the Ford Was New" is a raw, impatient kind of Photo Realism, lacking the movement's glossy sheen and formal precision. The painting is a deadpan populist gesture, bluntly made but with subtle riffs. Just as a color snapshot decays in the family's photo album, this painting is leaking away as you look at it, with drips in the grass and the gorgeous car's grill.

Dutch painter Anya Janssen has a woozy sense of atmospherics. Her paintings glow with candy-coated, neon light and her figures are at home in the high-toned artifice of it all. "Double Back" in oil-on-canvas