The New Criterion

James Panero, Critic's Notebook

March 23, 2015

Art: "Lothar Osterburg: Babel" and "Intricate Expanse" at Lesley Heller Workspace (March 15-April 19): Two years ago, through the program "Arts for Transit," New York subway riders were treated to a remarkable image in the trains called "Zeppelins Docking in Grand Central." This steampunk photogravure and chine collé, of blimps floating through a detailed model of Grand Central Terminal, was the creation of Lothar Osterburg. Now at Lesley Heller Workspace, Osterburg returns with a set of photogravures of the Tower of Babel rising over the modern metropolis. The photos, and the remarkable model made of "wood, matboard, found book pages," straight out of Bruegel, are on view. Meanwhile, in the second gallery, The New Criterion's own Mario Naves has curated "Intricate Expanse," a group show featuring Steve Currie, Laura Dodson, Karl Hartman, Tine Lundsfryd, Sangram Majumdar, and Maritta Tapanainen. —JP