

TIBOR DE NAGY

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Nell Blaine, Red Candles and Four Bouquets, 1978, Oil on canvas, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York.

“Nell Blaine: Interiors and Flowers, 1961–1990,” at Tibor de Nagy Gallery (through April 24): In 1922, T. S. Eliot told us of April’s “breeding/ Lilacs out of the dead land . . .” and thus instantly doomed a robust tradition of serious modern artists making pleasant pictures of purple flowers. Or so one might think. For one bit of evidence to the contrary, witness the exhibition of paintings and watercolors of “Interiors and Flowers” by Nell Blaine, on now at Tibor de Nagy on the Lower East Side. Blaine’s sunny still lifes can seem disarming at first, but extended looking will reveal how the Hofmann-trained ex-abstractionist brought a rare sense of formal aplomb and painterly liveliness to these placid subjects. —AS