

## Jana Krusek

Don't worry about the future the present  
is all thou hast. The future will soon be  
present and the present will soon be past.

Ron Terada

*Untitled (Grey Painting)* (1996)  
acrylic and gesso on canvas,  
44" x 44"

Photo: Damian Moppett

**Ron Terada**

**February 8–March 8, 1997**

**Or Gallery**

**Vancouver, British Columbia**

The yearbook memorializes that supposedly transparent moment between adolescence and adult life. Such epithets as "crossing bridges" and "setting off on new journeys" synthesize the experiences of secondary school as formative preparation for the "real" world of employment and social responsibility. Ron Terada's paintings employ the cribbed personal comments from his high school yearbook. Ouch. Taken out of their nostalgic context and reintroduced as glib signifiers of a maudlin juvenile sincerity, some are painful to read. Buttressed by the uninflected grey of the paintings' ground, the isolated personas we're given are absent of history and consequently devoid of any narrative arc. A result is that the investment in arbitrary concepts of "transition" can be seen as part of mechanisms, like advertising, that manufacture fictional but binding mythologies. In the yearbook, this mythology is built on its minute recording of incremental cultural shifts within a safe, unvarying form, and the quote's revealing self-prophecy is the primary hostage to futurity.