

ARTS & EVENTS

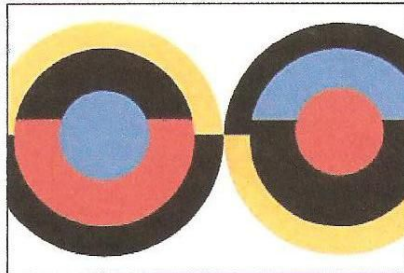
"Strictly Painting 6: Color Field Revisited"

To Saturday, July 28, at McLean
Project for the Arts

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BY KRISTON CAPPS
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Every two years, McLean shows just how down it can be by hosting "Strictly Painting." The sixth edition is advertised as part of the ColorField.remix, but curator Kristen Hileman has only considered this context loosely, if at all. Though there are some obvious nods to the Color School—Steve Adams' targets can't escape



comparison to Kenneth Noland's—the show also includes representational work, such as Cory Oberndorfer's *Mint Crème*, a peppermint portrait of a roller girl. Ryan Carr

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Johnson's liquid-latex paintings are easily the show's standouts. He imagines digital static, drawing from an electric palette familiar to Mandelbrot sets and common to bad TV reception. His paintings hang opposite (Washington City Paper contributing writer) Jeffrey Cudlin's suave oil abstractions, which explore paint values in layered ribbons of varying degrees of translucency. Cudlin's brushstroke is muted but intentionally uneven, making paintings that beg for repeated inspection. Lisa Kellner, who has in the past arranged pushpins on canvas in floral abstractions, turns to oil and pencil on Mylar for drawing-style pieces that stretch the conventional notion of painting. In a similar vein, Suzanna Fields' *Empathy*, a little urchin made from acrylic paint, is more sculpture than anything. Of course, the definitive aspects of painting are boundaries that have already been exploded. Ultimately, the challenges to traditional paint-on-canvas work issued by the more adventurous artists in "Strictly Painting 6" do little more than rehash old battles. And the same could be said for a great deal of the more straightforward paintings in the show: serviceable, but not especially progressive, abstraction. The exhibition is on view from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, to Saturday, July 28, at McLean Project for the Arts, 234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. (703) 790-1953.