

monthly art&culture magazine

Art Exit

GALLERY REVIEW

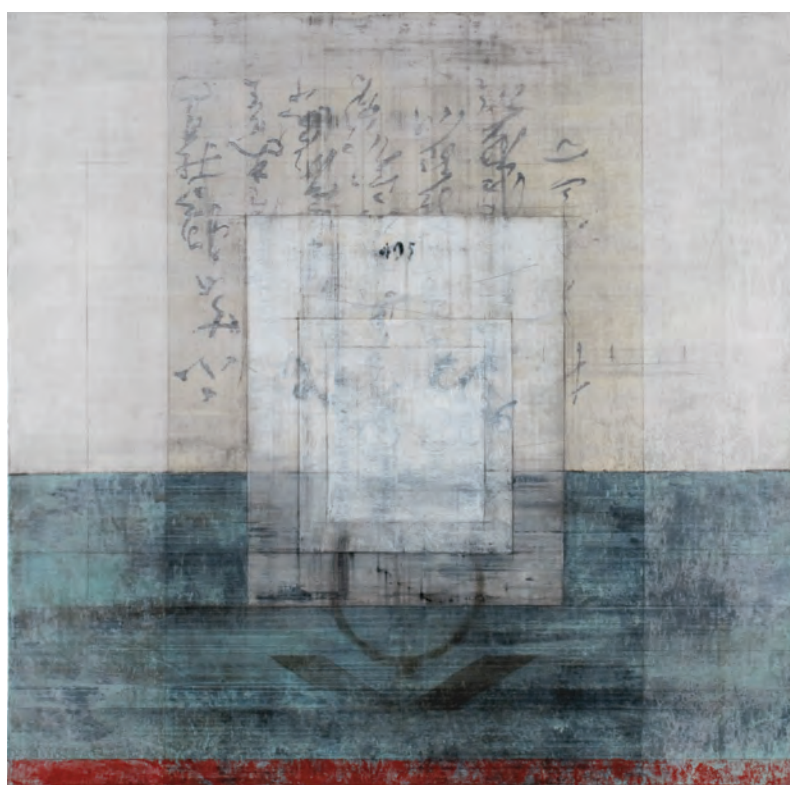
April-May

STEPHEN HALLER GALLERY

GREGORY JOHNSTON: SARABANDE

April 10 -- May 17, 2008

Johnston creates pictures within pictures and strives for dimensionality through layers and composition. Multiple overlays of symbols in his work surface through multiple layers of translucent color. There is a mysterious luminosity in Johnston's work; his paintings are noted for their lush gorgeous surfaces. The double rings in the paintings are representational of binding relationships -- a variant design of an ancient Asian symbol for fidelity or infinity. Johnston explores the impulse expressed in the notations and symbols of many cultures in an attempt to visually articulate the aching human desire to communicate an intensity of thought and feeling.



Natura Morte-Zen II 2008 Oil, alkyd on canvas 60 x 60 inches

The new paintings also reveal the influence of the rarified yet organic construct that is a Zen garden -- carefully organized symbols embodying a rigorous aesthetic.

Johnston says of his work: "Every painting is a relation-

ship within a relationship within a relationship, and structured much more like a novel or a piece of music, than the incredible open-mindedness of a painting on a picture plane."

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