



LLOYD MARTIN

Stephen Haller Gallery

Providence-based painter Lloyd Martin has exhibited annually at Stephen Haller Gallery for the last five years. He paints lush surfaces segmented and contained by an austere geometry. Mr. Martin has found a fruitful and inexhaustible subject in harmonious variations on a movable grid.

He finds his grid in the renovated factory that houses his studio. His compositions begin with the lines of ventilation or heating units, the placement of doors or a line of windows, the direction of an electric cable or the contours of a posted notice. Working in layers of acrylic, oil, and encaustic, Mr. Martin creates a palimpsest of scrupulous patterns structured on the rectangles of architectural spaces. Real life reference disappears; all that remains are vertical and horizontal contour lines. These are spaced intuitively to create rhythmic arrangements within the window of the canvas. Each of these paintings, all produced this year, is aptly titled "Finestrae."

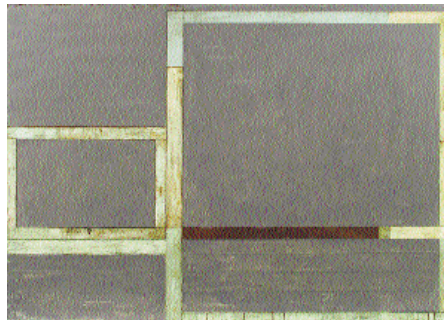
Dominant bands of color, frequently black, intersect with finer striations to form fields of illusive neutrals that are the fixed frameworks within which latitude is granted to chance. Its simplicity is offset by the complex layering and reworking of surfaces.

Mr. Martin's patterns are simplified contemporary heirs to the Abstract

Creation Group of the 1930's with one difference. Where the Group - represented most famously by Mondrian - concerned itself with abstract and geometric forms, Mr. Martin's more emphatically linear approach limits his configurations to surface design. The limitation is no liability. His patterns and arrangements are full of surprises and changes of mood. They evade conventional attempts to make meaning of them. Instead, they appeal exclusively to our sense of scale and balance. In that sense, they approach the character of music.

—Maureen Mullarkey

Until October 31 (542 W. 26th St. between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, 212-741-7777).



STEPHEN HALLER GALLERY

Lloyd Martin, "Finestrae (7)" (2006)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006