

Cool art is hot at State of the Arts Gallery



MARK ORMOND
About Art

“Cool Down/Heat Up” is an exhibition of fresh work for contemplation now through September at State of the Arts Gallery. The

work chosen by Tre Michel and David Steiner is from their enormous inventory and is very much at home in their high ceilinged gallery.

Beth Arthur is represented by new work of mixed media collages that combine her



Fred Nagel's "Seated Lady" is cast chromed stainless steel.

signature highly saturated soupy concentrations of brilliant pigments layered with marks/strokes of silver and gold. Arthur isolates and overlays rectangular shapes creating satisfying totem-like forms.

Susan Manspeizer sculpts with thin sheets of plywood that she paints in solid colors. The wood imparts buoyancy to her compositions that are nonetheless weighted with enough denseness that one senses the proper pull of gravity. "Burst of Energy" is 80 x 48 inches.

Jill Hoffman-Kowal is showing a number of works including her Rothko Series that pays homage to Mark Rothko's interest in the expressive potential of color. Russian-born Rothko, who died in 1970, claimed his work was about conveying the emotions of being human. His work was large and on canvas; Hoffman-Kowal's work is on paper and a smaller scale. Because making her works are meditations for her she provides us the opportunity for a similar experience contemplating them.

Fred Nagel's "Seated Lady" is cast chromed stainless steel from a figure he sculpted in 1948. Its form, though completely at home in 2008, manifests the artist's absorption of the early 20th century dialogue about Cubism and Futurism. The identity of the shaped steel as a female form is both the result of his opening three abstract ovoid shapes in the metal and creating an elegant and fluid pinch of the steel flesh to imply a breast. It is minimal and masterful.

"In the Meadow" 12 x 24 inches by Brigitta Sultana is a red-on-red paint and collage imaginary landscape with a defined horizon, a foreground and a middle ground. She has floated three metallic looking leaf forms on the surface asserting the two dimensionality of the canvas.

David Steiner shows off his great versatility and facility in many media throughout the gallery. He takes on Brice Marden

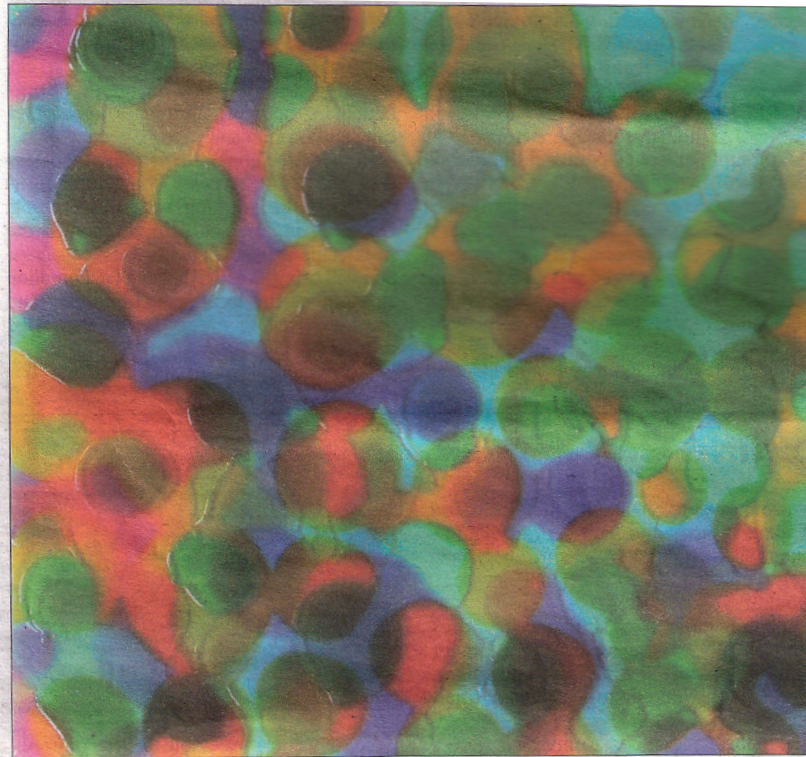


A painting by A. Dascha Reich is in multiple layers of resin is titled "Clear Multi-Dots."

in "Marden Study" 54 x 78 inches. The lines and loops meander on the canvas somewhat like a Marden but they do not possess the lyricism or the gravitas of one. In "Spot Check" Steiner has stained the canvas primarily with blue and red creating an original and mysterious atmosphere. In "Gossamer" colors stain and float on a ground of white canvas, causing the viewer to have the experience of quiet suspension as well. In "Tangerine Twilight" the flow of darker saturated

and has a modern presence. At about 30 inches tall with a grey over green patina it seems to have the weight of a bronze. Studying this work there is no question Colson knows a lot about horses and their depiction in art through the ages.

Larry Forgard's "Nesting I" is a painting with collage the subject of which is a woman in profile. She not only seduces us with the mystery of her presence but also with the refinement of her pallor.



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A. Dasha Reich suspends color and line in successive layers of resin in "Clear Multi-Dots." In this work the viewer can see through the layers but not quite define depth. This is a powerful ploy to hold our attention.

Frank Colson's painted clay "Tang Horse" references its Chinese ancestor

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ▼ "Cool Down/Heat Up" at State of the Arts Gallery, 1525 State St.
- ▼ Runs through Oct. 1
- ▼ Call 955-2787 or go to www.sarasotafineart.com