

BREEZE BLOCK

SHOOTING THE BREEZE ON THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

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It Took Several Richard Aldrich's to Turn a LightBulb

Richard Aldrich's recent show at Bortolami until the 28th conjures the split personality image while making for a show that manages a strong focus on selection wherein the works are noteworthy for the distinctions rather than the similarities they bare with each other.

Despite claims towards the "psychedelic" in the work, I would posit that what actually operates successfully in this show is an ability to be on the fringe of holding it together and then somehow doing so while not making it appear so. At first it seems like there are too many things going on stylistically, and everything could technically be considered a painting. That commonality which at first seems suspicious, as if the artist were merely a fan of different painting genres, becomes a background issue as we focus on the classifications of surface treatment, mark making, and arrangements present here.

Some works are more object-oriented in that they are like collages. Other works could be simply called drawings. Some are color field abstractions, and others are just frames that have been abused by the artist. What the 10 works in this exhibition represent is an illustration of the expanded field occurring across several instances, managing to coalesce as behaviors captured in individual circumstances, breaking apart and coming together after each work has been initiated, developed, and ultimately abandoned after completion (or as it sometimes appears, abandoned before their completion). In this sense, the works appear more sculptural than painterly in their handling. They are more like chronicles of certain processes or methods of thinking rather than canvases as place holders of art on the wall (see Joe Bradley). It almost seems too difficult a distinction to make, but the fact that the artist takes multiple directions to end up at one place suggests that the works in this show are more about the process of getting there rather than what expectantly lies at the destination.

POSTED BY HAYWARD AT 11:56 PM