

ALEXANDRE

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GALLERY - GOING

Hints of Disorder Within Grids and Stripes

By DAVID COHEN

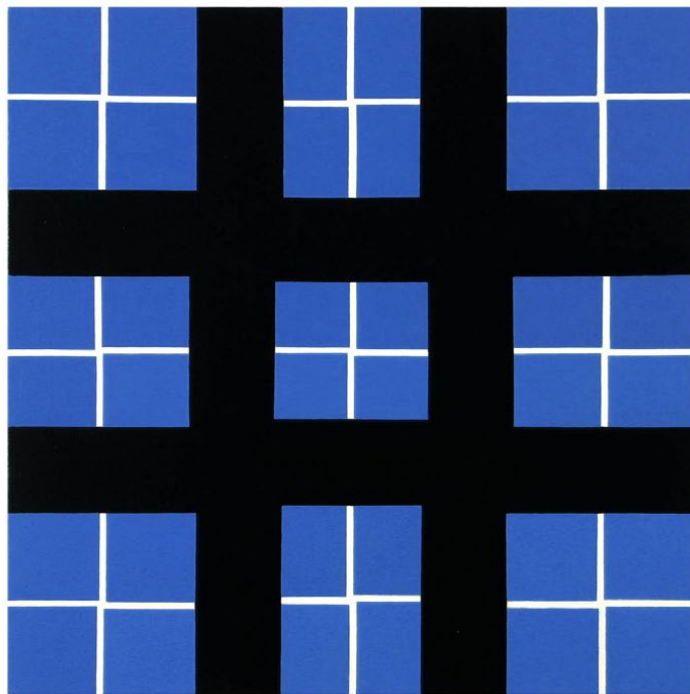
Stephen Westfall likes to take the grid for a walk. Straight lines are allowed little liberties that animate what would otherwise be dutifully minimal demarcations.

"Dark and Bright" (2006), a 2-foot-square canvas, has a tic-tac-toe grid of blue-black bars on a light cerulean ground in which the cross-sections cheat fractionally, as do the thinner white crosses within each blue square, sending a shimmer along the gridlines. "Jerome" (2006) does something similar with horizontal layers of colors; in each successive layer, the grouting is determined by the color of the layer below. Mr. Westfall's color belongs to the nursery in its good cheer and jocular juxtaposition; in terms of sophisticated usage, though, it is very grown-up.

There is often remarkable variety in a Westfall exhibition, and this show is no exception. In fact, the eclecticism is almost disturbing in Lennon, Weinberg's claustrophobic new Chelsea quarters (he used to bask in the magnificence of their old SoHo home).

"El Norte" (2006) is a seemingly random array of little squares on a white ground that recalls Damien Hirst's spot paintings. "Winslow" (2005) is a regatta-like flutter of triangular flags. "Orchard Street" (2006) is a cacophonous patchwork worthy of Jonathan Lasker in its brazenness. "Look Around" (2006) almost induces eye-burn with its underlying black-and-white alternating lines peeping through rectangular framing outlines of red, blue, green, and yellow.

"Speedway" (2006) is a rectangular grid of 12 sections made up of three colors, each presented in a different



Stephen Westfall, "Dark and Bright", 2006

hue. The grid is then presented in what comes across as interior space: There is a light blue background, with a darker gray strip at the bottom of the canvas to suggest a floor. It is the most perspectival painting among this group, and the only one that really takes up the almost realist tease seen in some of the best paintings in his last show, in 2003.

291 Grand Street, New York, New York 10002

25 East 73rd Street, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10021 212.755.2828 alexandregallery.com

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