

Beholding Ruth Pastine's Current Paintings

An Appreciation by DeWain Valentine

I feel a strong appreciation and connection to Ruth Pastine's Artwork. I identify with her work because I also pursue transparent colored space in my paintings and sculptures.

Ruth's work beautifully objectifies the two dimensional space of the canvas. As perceived by the beholder, her color fields seem to float into the air space between the viewer and the object. There is a tradition within the East Coast art world in the 1940's through the 1960's to avoid any artwork that might be classified as a "thing of beauty." Whereas, West Coast artists were characterized as drugged out beach bums who were not to be taken seriously. Ruth Pastine's artwork dances near the edge of the beautiful. She directly addresses the dilemma. She dances with the angel of beauty but the devil of pretty is not on her dance card.

Ruth's most recent work has taken a new step by dividing the picture plane into sections. She clearly delineates a most personal and original logia by building her own stepping stones. She places them into an unknown space in order to discover her uniqueness.