

“Is it ... Monochrome? Colorfield? Or an Object?”



Ruth Pastine: Conquer Surrender (Green Violet), Secondary Color Series, 2011, oil on canvas

By Susie Tommaney

Gallery Sonja Roesch, which focuses on reductive and concept-based art, has curated a group showing of contemporary works that can't be easily described. In the current exhibit, “Is it... Monochrome? Colorfield? Or an Object?” viewers will be asked to gaze upon the art and decide for themselves.

“Some of the pieces blur the lines; they are monochrome or an object,” said gallery founder Sonja Roesch. “Other pieces are colorfield; how they are built up. These pieces are between the definitions. It's interesting to us how people perceive the artwork and vote for it.”

Works will include pieces from essentialist David Simpson, who is known for his iridescent interference pigments and acrylic. Depending on the light and the angle of view, the colors will change in subtle and dramatic ways. “We have a painting which changes to turquoise and silver hues,” said Roesch. “It's about capturing the light.”

Houstonian Myke Venable also has exhibited at the gallery before, most recently with clusters of acrylic painted canvases. “His work, the cluster paintings, are an evolution to monochrome paintings,” said Roesch. “He has done other formations like the stargazer or spark. There are endless possibilities; it's very interesting work.”

The exhibit includes works by Donald Martiny, a North Carolina-based artist who works with polymer and pigmented color forms; and Ruth Pastine, whose monochromatic paintings expand outward or contract inward with subtle perceptions of color and light. Berlin-based Dirk Rathke, who is known for creating objects with painterly materials, also will have pieces in the show, as will local artist Kristen Cliburn, who uses an air gun to float layers of color over the canvas, varying between ethereal light and opaque density.

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Through August 1. 2309 Caroline. For information, call 713-659-5424 or visit gallerysonjaroesch.com.