



6 American Galleries Highlighting Abstraction

by Paul Laster



COURTESY PARRASCH HEIJNEN GALLERY, LOS ANGELES

Edith Baumann, *Pattern Recognition No. 44*, 2020.

As art exhibitions have begun to reopen amidst the continuing coronavirus pandemic, we've discovered that a number of American galleries are highlighting abstraction, even though figuration is what's generally trending today.

Whether it's a stylistic shift or merely a coincidence, we'll have to wait and see in order to further evaluate, but what we can uncover now is that regardless of gender or age, abstraction still holds a fascination with artists and continues to convey a pictorial language that takes viewers beyond their day to day existence.

Rounding up six recently opened shows in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, New York, and Miami, we offer a contemplative tour of some of the ways artists are using abstraction today.

Edith Baumann: New Painting

Parrasch Heijnen Gallery, Los Angeles
May 22–July 2, 2020

Creating sublime abstractions since the 1970s, Edith Baumann makes meditative paintings, where things come together and interact in simple, precise, and poetic ways. Developed over periods of time, her abstract canvases employ monochromatic and geometric forms to subtly construct paintings with a pulse. Completely nonobjective, they use patterns to create energetic fields of floating forms.

In her second show with the gallery, Baumann presents six new paintings with overlapping horizontal shapes juxtaposed with an early, monochromatic canvas consisting of three different, solid blue, vertical bands. The new abstract paintings, which are titled *Pattern Recognition* and accompanied by a number to identify each individual piece, mix hard-edged geometric shapes overlaid with softer, light brushwork that mimics the underlying forms while beautifully veiling their existence.