

## ARTslanT



### Tony DeLap

Tony Delap

Samuel Freeman

2639 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

December 15, 2007 - January 19, 2008

### **A Look at Tony Delap**

by Ed Schad

If one is into trends, a major trend in Los Angeles at the moment is the re-discovering of older artists that seem slighted or at least never made it to national or international renown. A big proponent of this trend is the critic Dave Hickey, who for sometime has returned focus to Los Angeles' hard-edge painters like Karl Benjamin, Fred Hammersley, and John McLaughlin. Another older artist in need of further recognition and re-appraisal is Tony Delap, who currently has new work at Patricia Faure Gallery.

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Delap has never quite fit categories. At first glance, you immediately think of his work as involved with hard edge painting, minimalism, finish fetish, Op, or even New York abstractionists like Ellsworth Kelly or Jo Baer. The fact is, however, that Delap doesn't cleanly align with any of these artists -- his works are too handmade and crafty for both New York industrial minimalism or L.A. cool, too sculptural to be that close to Baer or Kelly, not quite slick enough for Op. Delap, who grew up in the Bay Area but spent most of his artistic life in Costa Mesa and Corona Del Mar, is a bit of an outsider.

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He is also a magician (seriously), and perhaps magic and illusion is the apt metaphor for his work. Walk around Patricia Faure Gallery and see what happens. What you thought were planes and hard edges become sliding slants and carves of wood; trapezoids are revealed as small square canvases, rendered simply in two colors. Delap, who considers card tricks and sleight of hand his proper province, creates work which facilitates illusion and trap doors. It is thoroughly a joy to view it.

- Ed Schad



(\*Images, from top to bottom: Tony Delap, *Tony Delap*, December 15, 2007 - January 19, 2008; Patricia Faure Gallery, *Visible Invisible*, 2007, Acrylic on canvas, Courtesy of Samuel Freeman, Patricia Faure Gallery. Tony Delap, *Tony Delap*, December 15, 2007 - January 19, 2008; Patricia Faure Gallery, *The Eye in the Sky*, 2007, Acrylic on canvas over aluminum and wood, Courtesy of Samuel Freeman, Patricia Faure Gallery. Tony Delap, *Tony Delap*, December 15, 2007 - January 19, 2008; Patricia Faure Gallery, *Pushy Poltergeist*, 2007, Acrylic on canvas, Courtesy of Samuel Freeman, Patricia Faure Gallery. Tony Delap, *Tony Delap*, December 15, 2007 - January 19, 2008; Patricia Faure Gallery, *The Man Who Holds the Green*, 2007, Acrylic on canvas, Courtesy of Samuel Freeman, Patricia Faure Gallery.)

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