

MODERN PAINTERS

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Erratic systems and irregular cycles

BY MATT KEEGAN

Xylor Jane is an artist from San Francisco who currently lives and works in Massachusetts. Herself compared to Agnes Martin (by Roberta Smith in the *New York Times* review of Jane's exhibition at the New York's Canada gallery, in fall 2006), Jane creates abstract diagrammatic works based on counting systems that begin with a hand-drawn skeletal structure. When painted, these plottings result in visually vibrating spiral shapes or grids. Since 2002 Jane has made paintings and drawings of moon cycles, varying from the occurrence during her lifetime of blue moons (the second of two full moons that fall within a single calendar month)—for example, *Full/Blue Moons 1963-1999* (2006)—to the moon phases during the seasons of an upcoming year. For exhibitions and as inserts in such publications as *Esopus*, Jane has created posters that are to be used as calendars; a recent one, which suggests how Jane seeks to reconfigure objective time into something more personal, lasts five years. Through their Op-like appearance and potential utility (hypothetical though it may be), Jane's moon works extract the moon from its sentimental trappings and place it squarely in the context of a mathematical system.

