

Soft Geometry

Colin C. Smith

Exhibition dedicated to the memory of Richard Black

East Gallery

February 3 - April 20, 2024

Curators Statement:

“A painted surface is a real, living form.” - Kazimir Malevich

Colin's latest exhibit is a captivating exploration of material sensitivity and abstract expressionism, seamlessly transcending traditional boundaries. The displayed pieces, reminiscent of barn quilts, feature playful yet intricate forms with a bumpy, tactile surface that immediately draws attention.

Colin's mastery is evident as he skillfully navigates between flat surfaces and three-dimensional realms, engaging the audience in a nuanced spatial exploration. Much like Hoffmann, he strategically employs color temperature, paying homage to DADA, Arte Povera, and Minimalism through a reductive use of industrial and everyday materials. This sparks a broader conversation on surface, color, and composition, urging viewers to reconsider the potential in simplicity.

Echoes of artistic giants like Malevich, Klee, and Mondrian resonate in Colin's hard-edge compositions, where solid geometric shapes stand against an open background. The works invite contemplation of shape, color, and texture, with Colin exploring materials and infusing intense, saturated colors for vibrancy. He adeptly plays with the appearance of softness and brittleness, adding a profound layer of complexity.

In "Soft Geometry," Colin's remarkable fusion of material understanding, striking compositions, and intense color and shape results in a visually striking and conceptually rich body of work that redefines artistic boundaries.

Artist Statement:

SOFT GEOMETRY metamorphosed from a previous body of work known as **GUNK**. Each series of work comprises the same proprietary media, which is a combination of liquid pigments and a resinous commercial adhesive, however, the outcome for each body of work is distinguishable. Whereby **GUNK** was a creation of all-over color field, **SOFT GEOMETRY** evolved with the addition of soft-edged geometric forms inherent at the forefront, which makes the result of the formal playfulness more pronounced, as it brings to life the tension of shape and color interaction. Although the application of this medium is akin to trying to control chaos, the chemical reaction lends itself to producing the look of a 3-D painting with a puffy, textured surface.

Bio:

Colin C. Smith was born and raised in Central Nebraska during the middle of the twentieth century. After receiving his BFA in painting from the University of Nebraska Omaha, Smith received his MFA in printmaking at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Smith has exhibited his work nationally and is currently on art faculty at UNO. He will be presenting a solo exhibition at Blanden Art Museum in early 2024, titled "Soft Geometry." More of his work and information can be found at ccsmithstudio.com.

