

Westword

ART REVIEW:

FORM AND COLOR AT GOODWIN FINE ART

by Michael Paglia



Kimberlee Sullivan, *Atmospheric Flow*, 2015 acrylic and resin on panel, 48 x 48 in.

Kimberlee Sullivan | *Weather Occlusion* is a handsome show at [Goodwin Fine Art](#) that features recent abstract paintings by this well-established Colorado artist. Although Sullivan has exhibited her work regionally over the past twenty years, it's been quite some time since she's been the subject of a Denver solo.

The reference to weather in the show's title clues us in to the fact that the works are somehow inspired by atmospheric conditions, something that Sullivan has reduced to arcing, spiraling or meandering lines set against heavily worked and richly painted color fields. These two simple elements are the key components of her compositions. Many have been covered in thick transparent resins that have been applied unevenly, giving the clear coats expressive qualities.

In most, the resin has the expected high-gloss finish, but in some, the finish is matte. In one, the nine-part grid composition "Troposphere," Sullivan mixed the two types, making some panels glossy and others matte, creating a subtle visual effect that's only noticeable as a viewer moves by the piece. There are other multi-panel pieces here, as well, the most impressive of which is

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“River Pattern.” In it, horizontally oriented lines “flow” across five vertical panels. The juxtaposition of the vertical panels and the horizontal lines reconciles tension and lyricism.

The appeal of most of the Sullivan’s lies in their subtlety, but there are a few that are much bolder and pack a bigger visual punch — in particular, “Atmospheric Flow,” in which a blue spiral rises on one side of a variegated green field. It’s very elegant, and without being pejorative, I would add that it’s very decorative, too, as is its cousin, “Atmospheric Flow 2.”



Paula Gabriel, *Atmosphere 9*, 2014, mixed media on aluminum, 24 x 36 in.

In the small *Project Space* beyond the office at Goodwin is Paula Gabriel | *Highway Ride*, an intimate show of works on paper that were inspired by the sights she saw during a road trip. A Connecticut-based artist, Gabriel does paintings that are evocative of the scenery and yet are clearly the result of instinctual gestures and moves as opposed to being attempts to render actual sights she saw on that highway ride. In a way, she combines impressionism with expressionism, making me think of the chain of historic painterly events that runs from Monet through to Cy Twombly. Gabriel’s paintings are very elegant, and this diminutive presentation is the perfect chaser to the Sullivan’s up front.

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