

## GALLERIES

## Household textures square the obscure with the ordinary

BY MARK JENKINS

**T**he theme of "Concrete Abstract," a group exhibition at Heiner Contemporary, is "the confluence of abstraction with the everyday." Thus, the selection includes work that repurposes tablecloths, patio furniture and glittery knickknacks. But the show — curated by one of its participants, Matthew Smith — also has another visual agenda. It might be subtitled "homage to the rectangle."

The parallelogram in the gallery's window, rendered in blue neon by Lisa Dillin, announces that the eight mostly local artists have a thing for right-angled forms. These can be made or, at least partially, found. Smith's "Yellow and White," a quilted rendition of interlocking diamonds, is in the tradition of Josef Albers and Frank Stella. Patrick McDonough's "lawn chair" works are three-dimensional and constructed mostly of outdoor-furniture fabric. But Jeremy Flick's elegant series of stripe paintings, "Contrapuntal Derivations," includes one that merely appears to weave its bold colors as though they were lengths of nylon mesh.

A few of the artists play against the shape. Becca Kallem slaps a loose, black "X" across hers, while Danielle Mysliwiec's seemingly all-black square turns out to hold intricate, threadlike patterns of paint droplets, with glimmers of blue beneath the undulating surface. Sue Johnson's two "Designs for Imaginary Shelves" are baroquely impractical, and Seth Adelsberger's "Untitled (Stella Artois 2)" piece is a wooden frame that's grown so elaborate it no longer requires anything to frame. Sometimes the thing itself, an abstract shape made concrete, is satisfaction enough.

## CONCRETE ABSTRACT

on view through April 20 at Heiner Contemporary, 1675 Wisconsin Ave.

NW; 202-338-0072;

[www.heinercontemporary.com](http://www.heinercontemporary.com).



PATRICK MCDONOUGH AND HEINER CONTEMPORARY

**LEFT:** Patrick McDonough's "lawn chair" works, which can be seen at Heiner Contemporary, use woven patio-furniture fabric — perhaps the only practical thing about them.

**RIGHT:** Sue Johnson's "From Sojourn in Venice (Yellow)."

SUE JOHNSON AND HEINER CONTEMPORARY

