

# The Columbus Dispatch

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH | **Visual Arts** | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2003 D8 ■

## REVIEW | REBECCA IBEL GALLERY

### Pieces offer intriguing peek into future

"Fresh Faces," an exhibition of works by artists new to the Rebecca Ibel Gallery, features work by Daniel Mirer, Laura Bidwa, Daina Higgins and Rory Krupp.

Mirer, a recent visiting artist at Ohio State University, shows photographs of buildings, most of them presented in portfolio format.

*Yellow Building* is typical of the artist's interest in formal issues. An austere, windowless building, sandwiched between lawn and sky, suggests a somewhat academic study of perspective and color. The unpopulated interiors of OSU's power plants, football stadium and student-union buildings record their functional aspect in tandem with moods of silence and expectancy.

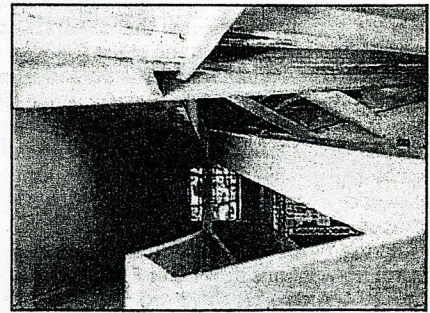
Spray paint and stencils are the primary materials used by Higgins to produce her tightly patterned urban landscapes. Graffiti-scarred neighborhoods, pigeons af-

ter in concrete settings, litter and loneliness are her subjects, translated in modulated shades of black and white.

Just short of being gritty, they communicate formally; their placement next to Krupp's works, however, makes his delicate watercolors appear conceptually tentative. Krupp's love and understanding of his medium are apparent; he builds on its seductive transparencies, yet his watercolors lack a sense of adventure or engagement that would render them more visually substantial.

Bidwa's cluster of small paintings — slabs of unmodulated color animated with searching marks of colored pencil or paint — are minimal reminiscences of landscape driven by the artist's need to explore issues of touch, including touching anew the world of images.

*Fruit* is composed of a bold matrix of yellow that functions as both sky and



*Stained Glass, OSU Football Stadium* by Daniel Mirer

earth by virtue of a horizontal band of calligraphic strokes, dots and dry brush that suggest natural forms — the "fruit" of Bidwa's labors.

This sampling of small works by young artists makes one wish for a crystal ball to see how their visions will develop a few years hence.

— Jeanne Fryer-Kohles