

Infinite Understanding

The wet-look and 'wind-blown' surfaces in the work of two Boston artists induce cosmic musings

by Tom Grabosky

Louis Risoli,
at Zoe Gallery, through May 20.

Risoli, a former Stux artist, has graced the walls of his new home at Zoe with a vibrant, upbeat selection of abstract oils in which he has continued his stylistic journey away from his early figurative muscleman paintings and toward a more mature and finely tuned expression of the purely abstract. Risoli has not, however, abandoned his expressionistic use of paint or his preference for the glossy, wet-look surface. He continues to put his lavish techniques to good use, creating swirling patterns of beautifully colored squares, triangles, and rectangles which link together and dance about his canvases, seeming on the surface like the exotically tiled walls of some Arabic dream chamber.

Yet there is an intuitive logic at work in these pictures: the rhythmic chains of pattern suggest some obscure ancient language of essential symbols or even, perhaps, strands of genetic material in the



Sensual color and juicy surface.
A painting by Louis Risoli.
Photo: Dan A. Soper

The swirling patterns of Risoli's beautifully colored squares, triangles and rectangles make his canvases look 'on the surface like the exotically tiled walls of some Arabic dream chamber.'

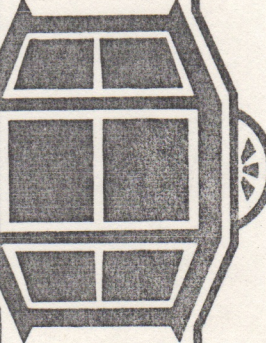
process of conversion into organic cellular structures. One is gently invited into Risoli's paintings by the appeal of their sensual coloring and juicy surfaces, yet one soon slips beneath the surface and feels swept up in a more universal interaction of spirit and form.

Risoli employs odd-shaped ovals (or "loops," as he calls them) which create a feeling of perpetual motion in the work, imply natural cycles, and suggest the infinite. "Parallel Heaven," a piece which

represents the artist at his loose and lively best, is a vision in sherbet pink. Two ovals of color hover together in space, floating serenely against a background patterned with strands of shapes that might be interpreted as symbolic of the random, relative events of life within which the pair of ovals appear calm and safe. Risoli's paintings contain a great deal of energy and optimism as well as a world of color and beauty that is intimate and stimulating.

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