

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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art

MUSEUMS • GALLERIES

Neil Anderson exhibit at Bridgette Mayer Gallery.

Abstract oils with a lighthearted touch

By Victoria Donohoe
FOR THE INQUIRER

There's something lighthearted in Neil Anderson's new abstract paintings at Bridgette Mayer Gallery, seemingly reaffirming his distaste for the grandiose.

This Lewisburg, Pa., artist shows painterly concern with the play of line and plane. He favors fanciful elements of patterning that evolve from line with considerable improvisatory skill. Much of what he focuses on is draftsmanship.

The rhythms of line in these oils evoke for me an image of natural phenomena, although they're at the same time steadfastly abstract. Of course, the artist chose to deny a strictly naturalistic perspective in these latest works by sectioning off segments of his larger canvases into separate planes. That is evident in the show's title, "Nightlife & the Divided Plane."

These paintings differ from one another in mood rather than in style, something accomplished by Anderson's satisfying choice of color harmonies.

Clearly, Anderson has the sensibility of a lyrical constructivist, improbable as such a combination might seem. His featured paintings consist of geometrically defined planes, lots of free-flowing lines, and, very often, brilliant color.

The asymmetrical, even erratic compilation of lines establishes a dynamic as vivid as that of the colors themselves. That's why, as abstractions, these recent works are irresistibly attractive and strong.

Bridgette Mayer Gallery, 709 Walnut St. To March 27. Tue.-Sat., 10-6. Free. 215-413-8893.



Two of Neil Anderson's oils, "Red and Black," left, and "Nightlife." The paintings at Anderson's Bridgette Mayer Gallery exhibit differ from one another in mood rather than in style, something accomplished by his choice of color harmonies.

