

Art



Kate Davis Caldwell's "Kingfisher": A boldly patterned puzzle delights whether it's solved or not.

Revival, of sorts. Attempting to squeeze new meanings from cast-off images by juxtaposing them has been common for so long that it has become clichéd. The concept is relatively simple to execute, but difficult to do effectively because, as in poetry, the conjunctions need to be flawless.

In her second exhibition at the Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Kate Davis Caldwell revivifies photographs that might have come from family albums. Such photos, of people unknown to her audience and no doubt to her, form the core of her paintings.

While the yellowing images of men and women don't take up a lot of space, they dominate through repetition. For instance, a painting called *Kingfisher* repeats a picture of a man in

a hat five times.

These people are always beyond our reach so the nostalgia connection doesn't often light up. The paintings work better on the level of pure energy, created by the bold patterning of dots and stripes and vivid color from a warm palette.

Kingfisher is a prime example of how these elements come together. It's a complex puzzle on several levels, but one whose architecture is so pleasing that the viewer doesn't feel obliged to decode it.

Bridgette Mayer Gallery, 709 Walnut St. 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Through July 17. Information: 215-413-8893 or www.mayerartconsultants.com.

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