

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

"Galleries"

Summer fun
By Edith Newhall



Bridgette Mayer Gallery's summer group show of the works of eight artists, "Young and Fun: Abstraction," lives up to its title.

Clara Fialho's paintings announce a carefree mood immediately. The Brazilian artist brings the same expansive joie-de-vivre to her tiny paintings that she brings to this show's largest painting, an explosion of colorful drips and marks on a hazy yellow background that suggests the smoky aftermath of a carnival.

Arden Bendler Browning also steals the show with her hyperactive abstractions of urban environments that call to mind a collision of Eric Fischl, minus the figures, and Richard Diebenkorn's abstracted landscapes.

Federico Herrero's monumental painting, *"11:11 AM"* (2009), defines fun abstraction with its bright, awkward blocks of color, although I would have liked to have seen a more recent work.

Laura Watt makes a strong impression with her paintings of patterns inspired by Arabic tiles, Amish quilts, Buddhist mandalas, Pygmy bark clothes, and Scottish tartans.

As much as I like the Scottish artist Graeme Todd's mysterious landscapes, I was too quickly reminded of Peter Doig's paintings.

"Young and Fun: Abstraction" also includes works by Alejandro Diaz, Nathan Pankratz, and Rebecca Rutstein.

Bridgette Mayer Gallery, 709 Walnut St., Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 215-413-8893 or bridgettemayergallery.com. Through Aug. 15.

"Galleries" by Edith Newhall and "Art" by Thomas Hine appear in alternating weeks.