

Philadelphia Inquirer, Posted on Fri, Nov. 18, 2005 Eclectic watercolors, Edward Sozanski

Not all exhibitions of watercolors are cozy collections of traditional still lifes, landscapes, beach scenes and portraits. "Water color: current views" at Gallery Joe involves a dozen artists, but it affirms a new, more conceptual approach to this venerable medium.

Of the 36 works, only a relative few connect directly with tradition. These include Harrison Haynes' Carport and his picture of a boy sitting in a pickup truck. Charlene Liu also paints realistically, but in a flat, all-over style that resembles stained glass.

More common are works such as Nicole Fein's small plaid patterns, Amy Rathbone's pointillist designs (one of which resembles a collapsing paper bag), and Matthew Bliss's ethereal veils of deep blue-black, which suggest thunderclouds.


Rebecca Bird's vivid abstractions, one of which looks like an expanding fireball, remind us that watercolor needn't be prissy; it can convey force. As for delicacy, Charles Ritchie's photolike images, particularly Self-Portrait with Night VIII, handle that superbly. Gallery Joe, 302 Arch St. noon to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.

**Water color**  
*current views*

October 7 - November 19, 2005

Opening reception  
Friday, October 7, 2005  
6:30 - 8:30 PM.

Gallery hours  
Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 5:30 PM.  
and by appointment

  
Gallery Joe  
302 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-992-7712

mail@galleryjoe.com www.galleryjoe.com

Rebecca Bird  
*Matthew Bliss*  
Amy Cartwright  
*Nicole Phungrasamee Fein*  
Harrison Haynes  
*Cheol yu Kim*  
Charlene Liu  
*Brian Murphy*  
Amy Rathbone  
*Laurie Reid*  
Charles Ritchie  
*Eleanor Wood*