

HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE

Haiku Reviews: From A 'Bollywood Invasion' To A 'Secret Garden' Opera (PHOTOS, VIDEO)



John M. Miller has effectively been painting the same painting for almost 40 years. It is a rectangle, normally horizontal. It features a tight, repetitive pattern consisting of short diagonal lines marching endlessly across contrasting monochrome fields – normally the color of the raw canvas – until the entire picture plane fills with row upon row of the motif. For all its hypnotic insistence, the insistent image refuses to disappear before your eyes, or to shrink in impact to the condition of wallpaper. Miller will usually paint the pattern in black, but reverts occasionally to other colors. One multi-panel work in this show features a different color in each panel, a move on Miller's part that is so garish-seeming, so Baroque, so goddamned impure, it makes you laugh. Other painters have proposed similar ruses, rejecting imagery per se and mocking the art world's tendency to brand artistic characteristics; Daniel Buren and his friends in mid-60s Paris come to mind. But their repetitions yielded invisibility, where Miller's, by contrast, yield a contemplative void. They invite us to stare at them and find our own universes therein.

Next to Miller's Zennishness, Eban Goff's wall-hung objects can seem rather fancy, but in comparison with most other art they maintain a taciturn succinctness. This, admittedly, is coupled with a sensuousness and sly but dependable element of surprise; you never know what Goff is going to do to what seems a given form, whether that form is elemental (a square, a chevron) or complex and evocative (lined writing paper seems to be a favored leitmotif), except to turn it into something a lot more bodied and object-like than it began. Their subtle eccentricity and self-possession prove downright charming, but also compellingly mysterious. (Diane Rosenstein, 831 N. Highland Ave., LA; thru April 13. www.dianeroseinstein.com)

– Peter Frank

JOHN M. MILLER, Untitled (B1-B5), 2011, Acrylic resin on raw canvas, 26½ x 103 1/8 inches