

October 24, 2007

CRITIC'S CHOICE

This autumn, Mercury 20 and CCC feature multiple collections. Upstairs is the work of **Keira Kotler and Jenn Shifflet**, who concentrate on color to evoke emotion. Kotler experiments with simplistic variations of light and hue; her square prints give a hazy, dreamlike feel, with some more pleasing than others. Shifflet, meanwhile, creates romantic oil paintings using circles and lines to move points of focus around the image. In her oil painting "Effervescently Adrift," she uses greens, yellow, and browns to produce a serene, mossy setting, with hauntingly bright spots of light crowding one corner. (Through Nov. 17.) Downstairs is **Natural Impulse**, which consists of several impressionist and abstract artists who play with texture to portray natural scenes. Kathleen King paints "Free Ride" using acrylic on canvas. Her scattering of thick, unconventional strokes of deep blues, light yellows, and hot pinks, feel like an expression of freedom. (Through Dec. 1). A third collection features works from **CeCe Landoli** and **Peter Honig**. Landoli collages using feminine materials such as lace and paisley. Her work depicts everyday life encounters that drip with peace and serenity. By contrast, Honig uses industrial parts to create objects for his camera. The resulting large-scale prints hint at political, religious, or current topics with a sense of humor. "House of Worship" is an old rusted box into which Honig stuck a chess bishop to create a church. His "Life After Death" consists of a tree and a yellow plastic stick figure taking its own life. All of his work uses white space to surround the image, which focuses on the creation. (Through Oct 28.) Mercury 20 Gallery, 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. Mercurytwenty.com.

Opening reception Friday, October 5, 6-9 p.m. -- *By Saira Masood*