

EDITH NEWHALL

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Review: Unlike yet alike at LGTripp

The three artists who have solo shows at LGTripp Gallery have more in common than abstraction, but that is not immediately apparent because they use three different media — photography, paint, and yarn — and they occupy three entirely separate spaces (the installations of solo shows I've seen in the past here tend to overlap a little more than these three do). In fact, all three are exploring linear forms, strong contrasts of light and dark, and texture.

*Paul Rider's new series, "Drawn to the Light," comprises large, black-and-white, extremely close-up photographs of torn and molded paper shot from above. They could pass for close-up images of architecture, desert landscapes, or nude human figures, and the parallels between these and Edward Weston's photographs of dunes in the American West from the 1930s are clearly intentional.*

*Rider's main influence, though, as he writes in his statement, was World War II photo-essayist W. Eugene Smith's 1946 picture *The Walk to Paradise Garden*, taken four years after Smith was wounded by a shell fragment in Okinawa and showing the photographer's two children walking hand-in-hand from the dark shade of a forest into a sunny clearing. Rider's images are easily imagined as abstractions of Smith's metaphor for the end of war.*

An arrangement of Charles Kalick's colorful abstract paintings in what is arguably the most difficult space in the gallery — the long hallway that connects the front and back exhibition spaces — looks wonderful here in isolation against a crisp white wall. The bright yellows, blues, and pinks animating Kalick's compositions of rectangles pop out from the wall, and it's nice to be able to see his rich surface textures easily from the side as well as the front.

Using vividly hued yarn as his medium and long nails as supports, Ryan Pellak has woven assemblages of geometric shapes directly on the walls of the back gallery, each intersecting shape made up of multiple threads of one color of taut yarn. These quirky 3-D site-specific wall drawings even have Cousin Itt-like doppelgängers, identical companions that have been released and allowed to sag.

LGTripp Gallery, 47-49 N. Second St., 12 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays

