

osp gallery

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THE BOSTON GLOBE

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Jered Sprecher: New Paintings

At: osp gallery, 450 Harrison Ave., through June 3. 617-778-5265, www.ospgallery.com.

Evocative, evasive images

Like a hip-hop DJ, Jered Sprecher puts his art together by sampling. His evocative paintings at osp gallery are not collages so much as traces of things he has seen before, tiny ephemera that he isolates and regenerates. Bar codes, utility wires, and a star pattern on a little girl's bedspread all make their way onto Sprecher's delicate canvases.

His intent observation and reapplication of the forgotten or ignored makes his abstract paintings quiet and subdued. It's as if you're wandering around in the recesses of your mind, trying to recall something, and then you happen into a feeling that is potent and familiar. This isn't conceptual art — it's limbic art, all about emotional resonance, triggered by sensation.

"Like A Child" features three black rectangles — symbols from a shipping label, blown up and exaggerated — floating over that star pattern, which is orange on gray. There's a painterly fluidity to the brushwork that suggests we've just stepped into a river of imagery that will soon disperse. An untitled painting of a skewed black diamond under a diagonal line might represent a kite flying under a utility wire, or, if you look at it differently, a dark window under the eaves of a pale yellow house. Sprecher's paintings are evasive and ungraspable, but always poignant.

By Cate McQuaid

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