

REVIEW

Occupying the surface

Art schools exhibit shows the approaches four artists take toward filling space with line, color and texture.



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"Line, Color, and Surface" at the Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster brings together four artists from what were once considered to be very different ends of the spectrum — two abstract painters, Geoffrey Dorfman and Tracey Jones (husband and wife), and two representational draftsmen, Harry Naar and Sue Ferguson Gussow. The gallery at CCA is split between two floors, so one can see them as separate but equal; the interesting aspect of the show is how seamlessly the two meld today.

Gussow is the most sensuous of the artists here. She's showing 14 charcoal and pastel drawings, of dresses and flowers, which sounds like a parody of feminine subject matter. But Gussow can really draw, with dramatic gesture and a terrific sense of weight. "Dance Gown III" (2011) almost dances off the page into the viewer's space. Gussow's drawings of faded roses don't seem like symbols, they seem like dead flowers pulled downward by their dry mass.

Gussow has written extensively about drawing, including an interesting examination of the medium as a basic tool for thought titled "Architects Draw". Her theories of freehand drawing have influenced 40 years of architecture students at The Cooper Union, and she had an instinct for assign lights and days in a way that defines space dramatically.



Sue Ferguson Gussow's pastel and charcoal sketches depict feminine subject matter, such as this dance dress, depicted with dramatic gesture.

IF YOU GO **Line, Color, and Surface**

Where: The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster

When: Through Feb. 21.
Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday

How much: Free

Contact: For more information, call 908-234-2345 or see ccabedminster.org