

rachel uffner

MODERNPAINTERS MARCH 2012

True Grit

Sam Moyer's ink Abstractions

Artinfo.com March 2012 Modern Painters



Sam Moyer, *Dark Mountain*, 2011, ink and bleach on canvas mounted to wood panel, 60 x 48 inches

With a background in both sculpture and photography, it's no surprise that the New York-based artist Sam Moyer now makes tactile, dyed or bleached fabric works that reflect on both disciplines. The canvas pieces, mounted on panel, are also rich abstract paintings: Nuanced, somewhat based on chance, they often conjure the suggestion of a landscape. ("In photography, everything has a horizon line or a waterline," says Moyer.) They're made by dyeing canvas with black ink and then folding the fabric to create varying fields of lightness and darkness; on certain pieces, Moyer draws on the surface with bleach to create horizontal lines or grid patterns. Five of the artist's large-scale works will be the focus of her sophomore show at Rachel Uffner Gallery, on view March 4 through April 22.

Moyer admits to feeling a certain liberation from the "slacker art" movement of the last decade – the idea that one doesn't "have to know how to do something to make it," she says. While her current practice is conversely based in serious craftsmanship, a certain *laissez-faire* attitude carries through in Moyer's choice of materials – like Soft Scrub bleach or the instantly recognizable moving blankets used to wrap and ship artworks.

The panel mounted canvas pieces are in some ways, a distillation of the experiments Moyer had previously dabbled in, such as wood slats covered with fragmented photographic prints of the sea, or similar pieces of wood covered in dyed canvas that were exhibited propped against the gallery walls. For now, her style is finding its full expression in this labor-intensive, process-based methodology in black-and-white; she's exploiting common materials to create resonances with the natural world. "I definitely want it to be gritty," she says, "and I want to make gritty sublime." –si

Rachel Uffner Gallery
170 Suffolk Street
New York, NY 10002

+1 212 274 0064
info@racheluffnergallery.com
racheluffnergallery.com