

Artists find limitless ways to deal with limited color

'Grey Scale' features work by 10 talented artists.

Continuing the theme began last year in the exhibition "Winter White" where artists worked in a nonrepresentational mode with a limited color palette, Peter Blake now curates an exhibition of 10 artists who focus on "Grey Scale."

The term grey scale, so familiar to computer users when printing without color, originally came from early photography, before colored film. It represents the range of blacks to white, largely tones of grays. Lita Albuquerque, Daniel Mendel Black, Alex Couwenberg, Wess Dahlberg, Tony DeLap, Jimi Gleason, Connie Goldman, James Hayward, Greg Renfrow and Marcia Roberts create gray tone paintings and wall sculptures. Grays are muted, darkened, lightened or bright. Surprisingly, color is brought into the gallery by grays enlivened by color.

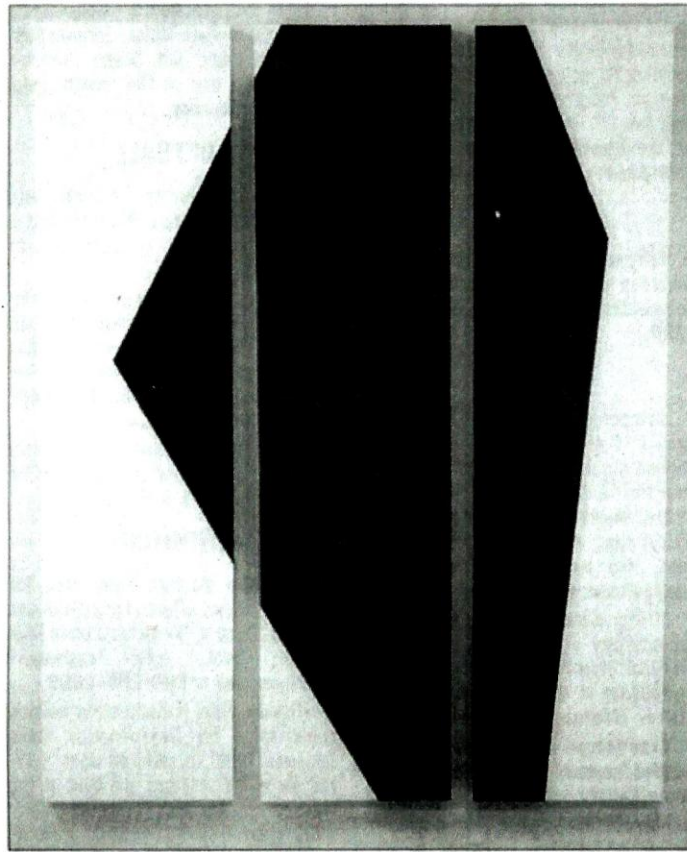
Despite a limited palette, all elements one might expect in any fine work of art are evident - shadows, luminosity, and sensitive nuances of line, edge, texture, dimensionality and surface. Albuquerque, whose global art deals with cosmic forces, presents two elegant works that summarize her uni-

versal philosophy. One is a black square with a white gold circle, much like a sun and the other is a white gold square with a black circle, much like a moon. DeLap shows graceful undulating wall sculptures that tilt away from the wall, rendering illusionary shadows that echo the hard

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edge of the sculpture and endow each form with a scale larger than reality. Hayward, known for his monochromatic paintings, is at home in this one-color exhibition. Luscious impasto surfaces deliberately fall into random but orderly textured patterns. They billow and shimmer as Hayward's brush, like Jackson Pollack, reminds us that a painting is primarily about paint. Black creates surfaces that are built, stroke-by-stroke, with layers of free-form horizontal and vertical lines within the range of colored whites, blacks, and grays. The work is rhythmical irregular, bouncy, and dynamic, much like visual jazz.

In contrast, work by Renfrow, Gleason and Roberts are subtle, their gentle images are more a disguise where viewers do not see all the applications



COURTESY OF PETER BLAKE GALLERY

PETER BLAKE: Connie Goldman's wall sculpture is about cascading colors, from whites, grays, to blacks.

and layers of various shades of grays placed one upon another. Renfrow's paintings are dark with a single lighted area that gives his work a mystical appearance as if we witness a shaft of light illuminating darkness. With wooden sticks, Gleason orchestrates paint in-

to textural patterns in a few choice areas of the canvas. The artist is a master at giving surface a beautifully poetic appearance. His newer paintings move out from the edge into the interior of the painting.

Roberts keeps her art a mystery. She aims for an indefina-

ble edge, color, light, and space. Subtle shadows are built from sixty layers of analogous color, each a slightly different tone. Her paintings seem to glow from within; images from different shades of gray on grays form haunting shapes, appearing just a shade darker than its illuminated background. Couwenberg deals with contrast - contrast of color, shape, lines and placement of shape. His work, although on a flat surface, has sculptural quality as if he carves out each image and layers them one over another.

Goldman's wall sculpture about cascading colors, from whites, grays, to blacks. The form deals with illusion of light and dimensionality as she creates a dimensional image within a dimensional image. Dahlberg too considers dimensionality and how light hits a raised surface and creates a series of dynamic shadows. His gum metal grays are among the most dynamic works in the show.

"Grey Scale," minimal and abstract in nature, proves that good artists set limits bound only by their individual artistic passions; they find limitless ways to deal with a limited color palette. Meet the artists from 6 to 10 p.m. tonight at the First Thursday opening at the Peter Blake Gallery, 326 N Coast Hwy. Call 949-376-9994